

Cheshire TOWN of

MASSACHUSETTS



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Federal, State and County Officials

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Governor of Massachusetts

Maura Healey

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Members of the Massachusetts General Court

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Representative

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

*Cover - 191 Church Street - the new location of the Cheshire Town Offices / Cheshire Community House
(as of September 11, 2023), formally the Cheshire School. Photo by Eugene Michalenko.*

Back Cover - Cheshire Cemetery Vault rehabilitation completed in 2024. Photo by Corey McGrath, DPW Director.

Town of
CHESHIRE

MASSACHUSETTS



Annual Report
2024

Adams Specialty & Printing Co. - Adams, MA 01220

Dedication

This year's Annual Town Report is dedicated to
Christine B. Emerson,
in honor of her 30 years of immeasurable service to Cheshire, as Town Clerk.

Christine married Vern Emerson in 1970 and moved to Cheshire, where together they raised three children. She was appointed Town Clerk in September of 1993, becoming elected in May of 1994. Throughout her years, she served as Brownie Girl Scout Co-leader (10 years), Boy Scout Den Mother for Troop 31 (2 years), Altar Guild Director, Vestry Member, Choir Member and Treasurer of the Women's Guild at St. Marks Episcopal Church (20 years) and has remained an active member of the Cheshire Library Association as Trustee and Treasurer for 26 years. She continues to volunteer as a fill-in librarian and dedicates one day a week to the Cheshire Library.

In Christine B. Emerson's 30 years as Cheshire Town Clerk, she has been an invaluable part of this community. She has been a key piece of so much of the history of Cheshire for 3 decades; facilitating and attending many town events; posting, recording and generating minutes of numerous meetings; holding Local, State and Federal Elections; issuing licenses for every local business, thousands of dogs, and fish and game; complying with multiple permits from raffle to burial; keeping up with ever changing Census numbers and voter registration; overseeing the completion of Cheshire's General Code and Bylaws; compiling 30 years of Annual Town Reports, etc. etc. etc.; all the while preserving countless records of the history that came before her, to ensure it makes it safely to the future.



*Left to Right; Christine B. Emerson with
long serving Election Official, Carol Daniels.*

*Christine B. Emerson
(pictured with
Alison Warner)
running her final
Annual Town Election
tape after 30 years of
service as Town Clerk.*



In 30 years, Christine B. Emerson recorded and celebrated the birth of 747 Cheshire babies and 241 marriages (some even including those babies born). She also recorded and mourned the loss of 838 Cheshire residents' deaths (also noting countless others who were long-time Cheshire residents not included in the record, as she knew everyone by name).

Though she retired on May 14, 2024, she continues to take calls, and dedicates her time, wealth of wisdom and experience to the Town Clerk's office, to ensure the residents of Cheshire's needs are met. Although there are not enough words to accurately depict the entirety of the work that Christine B. Emerson so selflessly maintained for 30 years, the impact of her contribution remains today, and so too is everlasting.

Christine B. Emerson, Cheshire has been lucky to have your care and consideration for all these years and is beyond blessed to receive your continued support of the Town Clerk's office. Thank you for all you've done and still do for Cheshire!!! You are invaluable!

Town Elected Officials

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

Town Appointments

Appointment	Name	Term	Appointment	Name	Term
Town Administrator			Director of Public Works		
Procurement Officer			Tree Warden		<i>Yearly</i>
ADA Compliance Officer	Jennifer Morse	<i>Yearly</i>	Corey McGrath		
			Superintendent of Highway		
Measurer of Wood and Bark			Emergency Management Co-ordinator		<i>Yearly</i>
Inspector of Ditches	Vacant		Corey Swistak		
			Asst. Emergency Management		<i>Yearly</i>
Treasurer	Rebecca Herzog	<i>Yearly</i>	Shawn McGrath		
			Animal Control Officer		<i>Yearly</i>
Assistant Treasurer/Collector	Whitney Flynn	<i>Yearly</i>	Kim Witek		
			Animal Inspector		<i>Yearly</i>
Accountant	Hilltown Accounting	<i>Yearly</i>	Vacant		
	David Fierro		Keeper of the Pound		<i>Yearly</i>
			Vacant		
Town Counsel	MacNicol & Tombs	<i>Yearly</i>	Director of Veterans Services		
			Veteran Burial Agent		<i>Yearly</i>
Building Commissioner			Stephen Roy		
Zoning Enforcement Officer	Brian Duval	<i>Yearly</i>	Right to Know Co-ordinator		<i>Yearly</i>
			Vacant		
Local Building Inspector	Rick Reed	<i>Yearly</i>	Farm Commission		
			Michael Balawender		2026
Inspector of Wiring	George Sweet	<i>Yearly</i>	Kim Martin		2027
			Eric Whitney		2025
Asst. Wiring Inspector	Leslie Rhinemiller	<i>Yearly</i>	Joseph Wrenn		2025
			Jason Turner		2026
			Jacob Zieminski		2027
			Fence Viewers		<i>Yearly</i>
Inspector of Gas/Plumbing	Michael Biro	<i>Yearly</i>	Vacant		
			Greylock Advisory Board		<i>Yearly</i>
Asst. Gas/Plumbing	John Burzimati	<i>Yearly</i>	Gary Trudeau		
			Vocational School Program		<i>Yearly</i>
			Vacant		

Appointment	Name	Term	Appointment	Name	Term
Representatives Arts Lottery Council			Mutual Vulnerability Program		
North Berkshire Arts Council <i>Three-Year Appointments</i>			Core Team		
	Arthur Kaufman	2024		Jennifer Morse, Town Administrator	
	Becky Ahamad	2025		Thomas Francesconi, Fire Chief	
				Michael Alibozek, Police Chief	
Recreation Committee		<i>Yearly</i>		Liseann Karandisecky, HLD Representative	
	Robin Poirot			Corey Swistak, Emergency Management	
	Timothy Garner				
	Corey McGrath		Council on Aging	<i>Three-Year Appointments</i>	
	Christopher Garner			Margaret Gwozdz	2025
	Liseann Karandisecky			Peter Traub	2027
Delegate to Northern Berkshire				John Bianchi	2027
Solid Waste Management Program		<i>Yearly</i>		Liseann Karandisecky (<i>Resigned 2024</i>)	2025
	Michael Kruszyna			Robert Balawender	2026
Northern Berkshire Cable Representative		<i>Yearly</i>		Carol Francesconi	2026
	Vacant			Barbara Proper	2025
Rent Control Board				Valerie Tyska	2027
	Selectmen			Suzanne Boyle, Alternate	2025
Memorial Day Parade		<i>Yearly</i>	Council on Aging Director		2025
	Robin Poirot			Brenda Caufield	
	Robert Balawender		Assistant Council on Aging		
	Corey McGrath			Dawn Krutiak	
	Timothy Garner		COA Van Driver		
	Liseann Karandisecky			Stephanie Bordeau	
	Michael Alibozek			Leslie Rhinemiller	
Conservation Commission		<i>Yearly</i>	Historical Commission	<i>Three-Year Appointments</i>	
	Carol Francesconi			Lois Nangle (<i>Resigned</i>)	2025
	Mary Stucklen			Jared Martin	2027
	Raymond Killeen			Jennifer McGrath	2027
	Ronald DeAngelis, Alternate			Joseph Prince (<i>Resigned</i>)	2024
Emergency Management Committee				Liseann Karandisecky	2026
	Michelle Francesconi			Corey McGrath, Alternate	2024
	Jennifer Morse			Barry Emery	Emeritis
	Ronald DeAngelis			Thomas Francesconi	2025
	Raymond Killeen			Christopher Flynn	2025
	Shawn McGrath		Board of Registrar of Voters	<i>Three Year Appointments</i>	
	Jason Levesque			Gary Herzog (<i>Resigned</i>)	2025
	C.J. Garner			Diane Hitter (<i>Resigned</i>)	2024
	Michael Alibozek			Elizabeth King	2026
	Thomas Francesconi			Marcus J. Lyon	2025
	Adam Healy			Lora McGrath	2027
	Ricky Gurney				
	Corey Swistak				
	Corey McGrath				

Appointment	Name	Term
Election Official	Alison Warner	Yearly
Asst. Election Official	Vacant	
Fire Chief	Thomas Francesconi	Yearly
Assistant Fire Chiefs	Corey Swistak Jason Mendonca	Yearly
Police Chief	Michael Alibozek	Yearly
Police Staff Sergeant	David Tarjick	
Police Officers	Claude Jean-Calixte, Full-Time Officer Aaron Goodell, Full-Time Officer Cody Alvarez Robert Hungate Mathieu Mercier	
Special Police Officers	David Sinopoli Paul Maloney Timothy Garner Robert Mallett Donald Poirot	Yearly
Harbor Master	Adam Healey	
Asistant Harbor Master	Paul Maloney	
Planning Board Alternate Member	Arthur Kaufman	

Appointment	Name	Term
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thomas Zappula Dale Grimshaw (<i>Resigned</i>) Stephen Marko	Yearly
Alternate Zoning Member	Robert Balawender Jared Martin Jeffrey Reynolds	Yearly
Keeper of the Flags	Corey McGrath	
Town Perambulator	Barry Emery Richard Salvi	
Open Space & Recreation Committee	Liseann Karandisecky, HLD Representative Jason Levesque, Selectmen Peter Traub, Planning Representative Jenny Gadbois, CCA Representative Arthur Kaufman, Alternate	
BRTA		
Berkshire Regional Transportation	Raymond Killeen, Representative	
ADA Compliance Committee	Lynn Melchiori Brenda Caufield Jaimie Walsh Corey McGrath	

Appointments by the Moderator

Finance Committee	
John Tremblay (<i>Resigned</i>)	2027
Kathleen Levesque	2027
Denise Gregoire	2025
Mickey Biagini	2027
Lenwood Vaspra (<i>Resigned</i>)	2025
Jeffrey Chaput	2025
Patrick Pettit	2025

Town Administrator / Board of Selectmen

Annual Report July 1, 2023- June 2024

The Annual Town Election in May re-elected Shawn McGrath and Raymond Killeen to the Board of Selectmen. The Board voted Shawn McGrath as Chair and Jason Levesque as Vice-Chair until the 2025 Annual Town Election .

Fiscal Year 2024 Grants / Projects

Classification and Compensation Study – Community Compact Grant **\$ 13,000**

The Town of Cheshire, under a grant provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Community Compact program, the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management, was contracted to conduct a classification and compensation study. This project developed new descriptions for the positions studied, including clear definitions of essential functions and requirements. It evaluated and assigned the positions studied to appropriate classifications to assure internal equity. A labor market survey to evaluate the relative marketplace and recommend an equitable compensation structure was completed. This process has highlighted the need to increase pay for the Town of Cheshire employees in most positions.

Capital Planning – Community Compact Grant **\$ 30,000**

The Town of Cheshire retained, under a grant provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Community Compact program, the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management was contracted to conduct a Capital Improvement Plan. This project will provide a five-year Capital Improvement Plan with financial recommendations. The work started in Fiscal Year 2024 and is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2025.

MassWorks – Ingalls Road and Hutchinson Development Roads **\$ 890,000**

The Town of Cheshire, under a MassWorks grant completed a full-depth reclamation of Ingalls Road with tree canopy work and ledge removal. With this grant and additional Chapter 90 funds, the Town was able to include milling and resurfacing of Devonshire Drive, Yorkshire Drive, Wilshire Drive, Hutchinson Lane, Berkshire Drive, and Ingalls Crossing Road.

North State Water Project **\$ 472,000**

The Town of Cheshire, under a rural development grant, completed Phase 2 of the North State Water Project. This project included a new water line from Arnold Court to Eastview Drive, including the removal of the pump station. This grant supported the use of Water Department retained earnings voted at the Annual Town Meeting; the completion of this project was the last task within the DEP Consent order.

Bear-Proof Trash Receptacles **\$ 5,000**

Two bear-proof recycling/trash receptacles were purchased with a \$5,000 grant from the MSPCA. These receptacles are located at the Community House near the playground and the Senior Center at the Pickleball Court.

Personnel Changes

Department of Public Works Director

The Town hired Corey McGrath to oversee the Department of Public Works in August, 2023. This position oversees the day-to-day operations of the Highway Department, Seasonal Laborers (Cemetery), Water Department, Transfer Station and Facilities. Corey has worked for the Town of Cheshire since January, 2022, when he started as a laborer with the Water Department; he was then hired as the Facilities Manager before being promoted to this new position.

Assistant Treasurer/Collector

Whitney Flynn was hired as Assistant Treasurer/Collector and Municipal Clerk in July 2023. In May, 2024, she became the elected Town Clerk after the retirement of long-time Town Clerk Christine Emerson. Mia Francesconi was hired in June 2024 to take over the duties of the Municipal Clerk. Whitney now works part-time in both the Finance, and Town Clerk office.

Water Operator

Edward Bunn IV was hired as Water Operator in September, 2023. Ed comes to the Town of Cheshire from the City of North Adams where he worked in the Water Department for five years. His certifications include back flow testing and cross connection surveyor, T1 (Treatment) - Operator in Training, and D1 (Distribution).

Facilities Technician/Groundkeeper

Dan Roy was hired as Facilities, Technical, and Grounds-keeper in April of 2024. Dan has previous experience with landscaping, light carpentry, and painting. He works leading the seasonal DPW laborers and is an asset to the maintenance of Town facilities.

Projects

Town Offices

In September, 2023, Town Offices moved to the Community House, former elementary school, to occupy the wing previously occupied by the Hoosac Valley Regional School District. The new space is more accessible and allows all departments to be in one location.

Pickleball Court

With the ever-increasing popularity of the sport, the Board of Selectmen voted to utilize ARPA funds to place a pickle ball court behind the Senior Center for all ages to enjoy. The court has been used since the spring of 2024, and was previously located in the parking lot at St. Mary's Church. The new court is first-come first-serve; rules are posted for the safety of all.

Chapter 90 Projects

As noted above, Chapter 90 funds were used in the Ingalls Road project. The following roads were also "chip sealed," which is a process to preserve the roadway. These roads included School Street, Dean Street, Eastview Drive, and Richmond Street. The Town also milled and resurfaced Stewart White Road, and resurfaced Curran Road with Chapter 90 funds.

Town Clerk

TOWN of CHESHIRE CENSUS 2024

16 years and Over.....	2,825
0 to 15 years.....	290
	<hr/>
	3,115

CHESHIRE VOTERS - June 2024

Democrat.....	478
Republican	252
Libertarian.....	12
Other Designation	9
Unenrolled	1,678
	<hr/>
	2,429

GASOLINE STORAGE PERMITS

Bedard Bros.....	\$ 25.00
Hoosac Valley Regional School.....	25.00
Whitney's Farm.....	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	5
Renewals.....	5

\$ 200.00

STREET LISTINGS SOLD

3.....	<hr/> \$ 15.00
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DOGS LICENSED

(March 31, 2023 – April 1, 2024)

Males	25
Neutered Males	110
Females.....	11
Spayed Females.....	157

Multi-Dog

4 dogs	3
10 dogs	1

*Amount turned over to the Treasurer
(including Late Fees)*

\$3,670.00

VITAL STATISTICS RECORDED

Births.....	16
Marriages.....	6
Deaths.....	22

I hereby present my first Annual Town Report submission, with the invaluable help of the retired 30-year Cheshire Town Clerk, Christine B. Emerson. My utmost appreciation and gratitude go out to Christine for her continued support of the Town Clerk's office, and its residents. I would be remiss to not express how lost I'd be without her knowledge, experience, and uncanny ability to recall every little detail. Thank you, Chris, for all you've done, and continue to do!

Thank you to the absolutely amazing Cheshire Election Officials/Workers and Registrars, you are all a blessing beyond words!

Thank you to the Town Officials, Boards/Committees and Staff Members, for your continued dedication to the Town of Cheshire. You all provide a great service for this great Town!

To the wonderful Residents of Cheshire: I am honored to be a part of this incredible community, and for having been elected your Town Clerk. I've come to learn that this role is certainly a lot of hard work, but YOU make it all worth it. THANK YOU!!

I am grateful to you all, and appreciate your support, sincerely.

Whitney E. Flynn
Town Clerk



*Left to Right: Assessor's Administrator, Robin Wadsworth;
Assistant Treasurer / Collector / Town Clerk, Whitney Flynn;
Treasurer / Collector, Rebecca Herzog;
and Retired Town Clerk, Christine Emerson.*

Town of Cheshire Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups as of June 30, 2024 (Unaudited)

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
ASSETS								
Cash and cash equivalents	1,271,127.62	444,621.20	177,702.68	423,280.78		1,245,015.16		3,561,747.44
Investments								0.00
Receivables:								
Personal property taxes	2,508.79							2,508.79
Real estate taxes	215,257.54							215,257.54
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(104,477.16)							(104,477.16)
Tax liens	89,168.13							89,168.13
Deferred taxes								0.00
Motor vehicle excise	62,473.98							62,473.98
Other excises								0.00
User fees				158,985.86				158,985.86
Foreclosures/Possessions	56,751.12							56,751.12
Prepays	11,136.00	20,510.96						31,646.96
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds				351,000.00				351,000.00
Amounts to be provided - vacation/sick leave								0.00
Total Assets	1,603,946.02	465,132.16	177,702.68	933,266.64	0.00	1,245,015.16	0.00	4,425,062.66
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY								
Liabilities:								
Warrants payable	114,739.53							114,739.53
Accounts payable								0.00
Accrued payroll	29,658.93			1,843.60				31,502.53
Withholdings	623.46							623.46
Accrued claims payable	25,132.97	91,936.98		2,003.18				119,073.13

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services			
Deferred revenue:								
Real and personal property taxes	113,289.17							113,289.17
Tax liens	89,168.13							89,168.13
Deferred taxes								0.00
Foreclosures/Possessions	56,751.12							56,751.12
Motor vehicle excise	62,473.98							62,473.98
Other excises								0.00
User fees				158,985.86				158,985.86
Agency Funds						(46,300.84)		(46,300.84)
Notes payable			962,600.00					962,600.00
Bonds payable				351,000.00				351,000.00
Vacation and sick leave liability								0.00
Total Liabilities	491,837.29	91,936.98	962,600.00	513,832.64	0.00	(46,300.84)	0.00	2,013,906.07
Fund Equity:								
Reserved for encumbrances	52,200.00							52,200.00
Reserved for expenditures				167,118.00				167,118.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations	33,778.70							33,778.70
Reserved for Free Cash to reduce Tax Rate	91,912.00							91,912.00
Undesignated fund balance	934,218.03	373,195.18	(784,897.32)			1,291,316.00		1,813,831.89
Unreserved retained earnings				252,316.00				252,316.00
Investment in capital assets								0.00
Total Fund Equity	1,112,108.73	373,195.18	(784,897.32)	419,434.00	0.00	1,291,316.00	0.00	2,411,156.59
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	1,603,946.02	465,132.16	177,702.68	933,266.64	0.00	1,245,015.16	0.00	4,425,062.66

Schedule A Part 1

Schedule A Part 1 - Fiscal Year 2024
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	157,591	4695	Court Fines	
4120	Real Estate Taxes	4,684,415	4720	Received From the County for Services Performed	
4150	Motor Vehicle Excise	671,550	4730	Received From Other Municipalities for Services Performed	
4179	Penalties and Interest	36,171			
4180	In Lieu of Taxes	37,500		F. TOTAL REVENUES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS	
4191	Hotel/Motel Excise				
4192	Meals Excise			G. SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	
4193	Cannabis Excise		4750	Special Assessments	
4194	Boat Excise			G. TOTAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	
4198	Urban Redevelopment Excises				
4199	Other Taxes			H. FINES, AND FOREFITURES	
	A. TOTAL TAXES (NET OF REFUNDS)	5,587,227	4770	Fines and Forfeitures	
	B. CHARGES FOR SERVICES/ OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES			H. TOTAL FINES AND FORFEITURES	
4211	Water Charges				
4212	Other Utility Charges			I. MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	
4229	Other Charges		4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	
4243	Parking Charges		4820	Earnings on Investments	19,772
4244	Park and Recreation Charges			I. TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	19,772
4246	Sewerage Charges				
4247	Trash Collection Charges	100,070		TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	6,899,810
4248	Transit Charges				
4370	Other Department Revenue	75,815		J. OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	
	B. TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES/OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES	175,885	4990	Other Financing Sources	
	C. LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES			J. TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	
4322	Fees Retained from Tax Collection	19,395			
4323	Cannabis Impact Fee			TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCIAL SOURCES	6,899,810
4324	Short-term Rental Community Impact Fee				
4400	Licenses and Permits	101,954		K. INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS	
	C. TOTAL LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES	121,349	4972	Transfers from Special Revenue Funds	
	D. FEDERAL REVENUE		4973	Transfers from Capital Projects Funds	
4540	Unrestricted - Direct	1,121	4975	Transfers from Enterprise Funds	
4580	Unrestricted - Through the State		4976	Transfers from Trust Funds	
	D. TOTAL FEDERAL REVENUE	1,121	4977	Transfers from Agency Funds	
	E. REVENUES FROM STATE			K. TOTAL INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS	
4600	State Revenue	994,456			
	E. TOTAL REVENUES FROM STATE	994,456		TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES, OTHER FINANCING SOURCES, AND INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS	6,899,810

Schedule A Part 2 - Fiscal Year 2024

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.
5100	Salary and Wages	75,248	85,000		30,080	33,408		55,742	42,444		27,722	1,280 1,530
5700	Expenditures	92,392	2,999	38,132	11,572	9,575	3,000	290,373	40,148		15,150	3,200 693
5800A	Construction											
5800B	Capital Outlay							13,000				
TOTAL		167,640	87,999	38,132	41,652	42,983	3,000	359,115	82,592		42,872	4,480 2,223

Schedule A Part 2 - Public Safety (200)							
Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Police	Fire	Emerg. Med. Services	Inspection	Other	
5100	Salary and Wages	217,848	31,230		32,385	1,500	
5700	Expenditures	55,163	78,518		5,772	1,054	
5800A	Construction						
5800B	Capital Outlay						
TOTAL		273,011	109,748		38,157	2,554	

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		2,948,464	564,446		
5800A	Construction					
5800B	Capital Outlay					
TOTAL			2,948,464	564,446		

Schedule A Part 2 - Fiscal Year 2024 (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		287,351	23,970					
5700	Expenditures	135,054	314,047	133,890				73,798	9,000
5800A	Construction								
5800B	Capital Outlay		187,300	26,405					
	TOTAL	135,054	788,698	184,265				73,798	9,000

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	11,849	49,066	26,151		
5700	Expenditures	9,415	8,118	46,055	6,944	
5800A	Construction					
5800B	Capital Outlay					
	TOTAL	21,264	57,184	46,055	33,095	

Schedule A Part 2 - Culture and Recreation (600)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Library	Recreation	Parks	Historical Commission	Celebrations	Other
5100	Salary and Wages	39,442					
5700	Expenditures		12,391				71
5800A	Construction						
5800B	Capital Outlay						
	TOTAL	39,442	12,391				71

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	242,600	4,750	25,597	
	TOTAL	242,600	4,750	25,597	

Schedule A Part 2 - Fiscal Year 2024 (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		752	238,421			97,225	65,343	152,452	
	TOTAL		752	238,421			97,225	65,343	152,452	

Schedule A Part 2 - Transfers/Other Financing Uses (0001)			
Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Amount	
5960	Transfers to Other Funds	77,452	
5990	Other Financing Uses		
	TOTAL	77,452	

Schedule A Part 2 - Total All General Fund Expenditures			
Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Total	
EXPENDITURES			
5100	Salary and Wages	1,073,246	
5700	Expenditures	4,909,434	
5800A	Construction		
5800B	Capital Outlay	226,705	
5900	Debt Service	272,947	
0001	Unclassified	554,193	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES		7,036,525	

OTHER FINANCING USES			
Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Total	
5960	Transfers to Other Funds	77,452	
5990	Other Financing Uses		
	TOTAL TRANSFERS AND OTHER FINANCING USES	77,452	
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	7,113,977	

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2024

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										
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										
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES											
TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES											
EXPENDITURES											
5100	Salary and Wages										
5700	Expenditures	296,302									296,302
5800A	Construction										
5800B	Capital Outlay										
5900	Debt Service										
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 296,302											
OTHER FINANCING USES											
5960	Transfers to Other Funds										
5990	Other Financing Uses										
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES											
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES 296,302											
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)											
-296,302											
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	474,966									474,966
0003	Adjustments										
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	178,664									178,664

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2024 (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	57,908	48,531	1,337,344				15,526	8,806	87,020	1,555,135
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues										
4820	Earnings on Investments										
	TOTAL REVENUES	57,908	48,531	1,337,344				15,526	8,806	87,020	1,555,135
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											
		57,908	48,531	1,337,344				15,526	8,806	87,020	1,555,135
EXPENDITURES											
5100	Salary and Wages										
5700	Expenditures	1,477	30,904	1,235,322		3,164		14,180		103,601	1,388,648
5800A	Construction										
5800B	Capital Outlay										
5900	Debt Service										
TOTAL EXPENDITURES											
		1,477	30,904	1,235,322		3,164		14,180		103,601	1,388,648
OTHER FINANCING USES											
5960	Transfers to Other Funds										
5990	Other Financing Uses										
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES											
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES											
		1,477	30,904	1,235,322		3,164		14,180		103,601	1,388,648
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)											
		56,431	17,627	102,022		-3,164		1,346	8,806	-16,581	166,487
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	269	-38,611	-22,284		4,146		19,471	50,126	-18,503	-5,386
0003	Adjustments										
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	56,700	-20,984	79,738		982		20,817	58,932	-35,084	161,101

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2024 (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								122	122
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues									
4820	Earnings on Investments									
TOTAL REVENUES										122 122
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										
										122 122
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								122	122
0003	Adjustments								700	700
0004	Fund Balance End of Year								822	822

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2024 (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				21,097	21,097
4820	Earnings on Investments					
	TOTAL REVENUES				21,097	21,097
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				21,097	21,097
EXPENDITURES						
5100	Salary and Wages					
5700	Expenditures				9,854	9,854
5800A	Construction					
5800B	Capital Outlay					
5900	Debt Service					
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				9,854	9,854
OTHER FINANCING USES						
5960	Transfers to Other Funds					
5990	Other Financing Uses					
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES					
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES				9,854	9,854
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)						
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year				11,243	11,243
0003	Adjustments				12,693	12,693
0004	Fund Balance End of Year				23,936	23,936

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2024 (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										21,740		21,740
4820	Earnings on Investments												
	TOTAL REVENUES										21,740		21,740
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										21,740		21,740
EXPENDITURES													
5100	Salary and Wages												
5700	Expenditures										15,296		15,296
5800A	Construction												
5800B	Capital Outlay												
5900	Debt Service												
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES										15,296		15,296
OTHER FINANCING USES													
5960	Transfers to Other Funds												
5990	Other Financing Uses												
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES												
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES										15,296		15,296
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)													
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year										6,444		6,444
0003	Adjustments										2,228		2,228
0004	Fund Balance End of Year										8,672		8,672

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2024 (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	
4600	State Revenue	1,555,257
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	42,837
4820	Earnings on Investments	
	TOTAL REVENUES	1,598,094
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	1,598,094
EXPENDITURES		
5100	Salary and Wages	
5700	Expenditures	1,710,100
5800A	Construction	
5800B	Capital Outlay	
5900	Debt Service	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,710,100
OTHER FINANCING USES		
5960	Transfers to Other Funds	
5990	Other Financing Uses	
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	1,710,100
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-112,006
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	485,201
0003	Adjustments	
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	373,195

Schedule A Part 4 - Fiscal Year 2024

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							78,150	78,150
5800A	Construction								
5800B	Capital Outlay								
5900	Debt Service								
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES							78,150	78,150
OTHER FINANCING USES									
5960	Transfers to Other Funds								
5990	Other Financing Uses								
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES								
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES							78,150	78,150
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)									
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year							64,450	64,450
0003	Adjustments							-849,347	-849,347
0004	Fund Balance End of Year							-784,897	-784,897

Schedule A Part 5 - Fiscal Year 2024

Schedule A Part 5 - Enterprise Funds												
Acct. No.	Item Description	Water	Sewer	Electric	Landfills	Hospital	Health Care	Airport	Harbor	Golf Courses	Public Recreation	Total
REVENUES												
4100	Taxes and Excises											
4200	Charges for Services	392,878										392,878
4500	Federal Revenue											
4600	State Revenue											
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	1,999										1,999
4820	Earnings on Investments	3,143										3,143
	TOTAL REVENUES	398,020										398,020
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	398,020										398,020
EXPENDITURES												
5100	Salary and Wages	98,961										98,961
5700	Expenditures	96,017										96,017
5800A	Construction											
5800B	Capital Outlay											
5900	Debt Service	41,690										41,690
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	236,668										236,668
OTHER FINANCING USES												
5960	Transfers to Other Funds											
5990	Other Financing Uses											
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES											
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	236,668										236,668
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)												
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	161,352										161,352
0003	Adjustments	258,082										258,082
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	419,434										419,434

Schedule A Part 6 - Fiscal Year 2024

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	Total
REVENUES										
4100	Taxes and Excises									
4200	Charges for Services									
4500	Federal Revenue									
4600	State Revenue									
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	8,001							1,750	9,751
4820	Earnings on Investments	3,724			11,267	13,221			11,857	361 40,430
	TOTAL REVENUES	11,725			11,267	13,221			11,857	2,111 50,181
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES										
4970	Transfers From Other Funds				10,000	47,452			20,000	77,452
4990	Other Financing Sources									
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				10,000	47,452			20,000	77,452
TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES										
		11,725			21,267	60,673			31,857	2,111 127,633
EXPENDITURES										
5100	Salary and Wages									
5700	Expenditures	35,930							4,601	40,531
5800A	Construction									
5800B	Capital Outlay									
5900	Debt Service									
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	35,930							4,601	40,531
OTHER FINANCING USES										
5960	Transfers to Other Funds									
5990	Other Financing Uses									
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES									
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES										
		35,930							4,601	40,531
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)										
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year				21,267	60,673			31,857	-2,490 87,102
0003	Adjustments				556,280	243,543			84,190	27,864 1,204,214
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	268,132			577,547	304,216			116,047	25,374 1,291,316

Schedule A Part 7 - Fiscal Year 2024

Schedule A Part 7 - Agency Funds

Acct. No.	Item Description	Balance July 1, 2023	Additions	Transfer From	Deductions	Transfer To	Balance June 30, 2024
ASSETS							
0005	Cash	-23,904	261,896		284,293		-46,301
0006	Accounts Receivable						
	TOTAL ASSETS	-23,904	261,896		284,293		-46,301
LIABILITIES							
0007	Police Outside Detail	-43,762	245,464		256,572		-54,870
0008	Fire Off Duty Detail						
0009	Tax Due State						
0010	Meals Tax Due State						
0011	Licenses Due State	1,675	9,325		9,038		1,962
0012	Due County/Retirement Systems						
0013	Guarantee Bid Deposits	16,137	6,550		18,100		4,587
0014	Unclaimed Items						
0015	Other Liabilities	2,046	557		583		2,020
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	-23,904	261,896	2	84,293		-46,301

Schedule A Part 8 - Fiscal Year 2024

Schedule A Part 8 - Personnel Expenditures

Total Salaries and Wages as of December 31, -1 as Reported on IRS Form W-2	1,055,709
Total Number of Employees (FTE) for Calendar Year Ending December 31, -1	17

Schedule A Part 9 - Fiscal Year 2024

Schedule A Part 9 - Schedule of Cash and Investments

Acct. No.	Item Description	Cash and Investments
FUNDS		
0016	General Fund	1,271,127
0017	Special Revenue	444,621
0018	Debt Service Fund	
0019	Capital Project Funds	177,703
0020	Enterprise Funds	423,281
0021	Trust Funds	1,291,316
0022	Agency Funds	-46,301
	TOTAL ALL FUNDS	3,561,747

Schedule A Part 10 - Fiscal Year 2024

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

Acct. No.	Item Description	Outstanding July 1, 2023	Issued this Fiscal Year	Retired this Fiscal Year	Outstanding June 30, 2024	Interest this Fiscal Year
A. GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS						
INSIDE DEBT LIMIT						
D001	Buildings					
D002	Department Equipment					
D003	School Buildings					
D004	School - All Other					
D005	Sewer					
D006	Solid Waste					
D007	Other Inside Limit	364,000		13,000	351,000	8,189
TOTAL INSIDE DEBT LIMIT		364,000		13,000	351,000	8,189
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	100,000		100,000		4,750
Total Outside Debt Limit		100,000		100,000		4,750
Total Long Term Debt		464,000		113,000	351,000	12,939
D023	Total Debt Refunding					
B. REVENUE AND NONGUARANTEED BONDS						
D021	Revenue and Nonguaranteed Bonds					
C. SHORT TERM DEBT						
D017	Tax Anticipation Notes					
D018	Bond Anticipation Notes					
D019	Grant Anticipation Notes					
D020	Other Short Term Debt	1,105,200		142,600	962,600	46,098
TOTAL SHORT TERM DEBT		1,105,200		142,600	962,600	46,098
D. OTHER INTEREST						
D022	Other Interest					
Item Description			Authorized	Issued/Retired Rescinded	Unissued June 30, 2024	
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 2024

Schedule A Part 11 - Reconciliation of Fund Equity (Retained Earnings) for the Fiscal Year End June 30, 2024

Item Description	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Trust	Total
1 Total Revenue	6,899,810	1,598,094		398,020	50,181	8,946,105
2 Total Expenditures	7,036,525	1,710,100	78,150	236,668	40,531	9,101,974
3 TOTAL EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES (LINE 1 - LINE 2)	-136,715	-112,006	-78,150	161,352	9,650	-155,869
4 Transfers from Other Funds					77,452	77,452
5 Other Financing Sources			142,600			142,600
6 Transfers to Other Funds	77,452					77,452
7 Other Financing Uses						
8 TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) SUM OF LINES 4 AND 5 MINUS LINES 6 AND 7	-77,452		142,600		77,452	142,600
9 TOTAL EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) (SUM OF LINES 3 AND 8)	-214,167	-112,006	64,450	161,352	87,102	-13,269
10 Fund Equity (Retained Earnings) Beginning of Year	1,326,276	485,201	-849,347	258,082	1,204,214	2,424,426
11 Other Adjustments						
12 TOTAL FUND EQUITY (RETAINED EARNINGS) END OF YEAR (SUM OF LINES 9 THROUGH 11)	1,112,109	373,195	-784,897	419,434	1,291,316	2,411,157

Schedule A Submission - Fiscal Year 2024

Signatures

Peter Schmidt
Town Accountant
Cheshire

Schedule A KAR-1 - Fiscal Year 2024

Schedule A KAR-1

Cash Balance

Fund	Balance Sheet	Schedule A	Variance
General Fund	1,271,127	1,271,127	0
Special Revenue	444,621	444,621	0
Capital Project Funds	177,703	177,703	0
Enterprise Funds	423,281	423,281	0
Trust & Agency Funds	1,245,015	1,245,015	0
Debt Service Fund		0	0
Total	3,561,747	3,561,747	0

Fund Equity Balance

Fund	Balance Sheet	Schedule A	Variance
General Fund	1,112,109	1,112,109	0
Special Revenue	373,195	373,195	0
Capital Project Funds	-784,897	-784,897	0
Enterprise Funds	419,434	419,434	0
Trust Funds	1,291,316	1,291,316	0
Total	2,411,157	2,411,157	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 2024 is hereby submitted:

Departmental Receipts	Receipt Detail	Total Receipts	Departmental Receipts	Receipt Detail	Total Receipts
Board of Health			Dept of Interior		
Bags & Stickers	\$ 100,069.90		PILOT -		
Transfer Station - Demo	19,591.47		Federally Owned Land	\$ 1,121.00	\$ 1,121.00
RDP Grant	5,250.00		Fire Dept		
Bear Proof Grant	3,500.00		Permits	2,325.00	
Permits	2,675.00		EMPG Grant	2,684.99	
Perc Tests	6,150.00	\$ 137,236.37	Asst to Firefighters Grant 2021	42,846.47	
Board of Selectmen			Asst to Firefighters Grant 2022	29,160.86	77,017.32
Licenses/Fees	4,870.00		Interest		
Rental Income	37,800.00		General Fund	19,771.85	
Community Impact Fee	5,000.00		Trust Funds	33,169.24	
Leland Park Donation	3,491.40		OPEB Trust Fund	11,857.39	64,798.48
Solar PILOT Revenue	25,000.00		Misc Revenue	9,959.35	9,959.35
Voc Transp Reimb	3,855.73	80,017.13	Planning Board		
Building Inspector			Filing Fees	1,125.00	1,125.00
Permits	23,858.00	23,858.00	Plumbing/Gas Inspector		
Cemetery			Permits	3,950.00	3,950.00
Grave Openings	3,200.00		Police Dept		
Misc Work & Wkend Charge	1,400.00		Details	245,464.25	
Equipment Use	100.00		Firearm Permits	9,325.00	
Deed Fee	80.00		CMVI - RMV Infractions	9,152.49	
Perpetual Care Fund	3,400.00		Revolving Fund Revenue	7,495.00	
Sale of Lots	1,750.00	9,930.00	Bridge Academy Reimb	3,000.00	
Commonwealth of MA			Fees/Fines	17,259.38	291,696.12
General Government (Lottery)	734,382.00		Recreation		
Chapter 70	16,351.00		Events/Revolving	15,709.00	15,709.00
State Owned Land	187,468.00		Reimbursements		
Elderly/Blind Exemption			BRPC return unspent match	22,407.65	22,407.65
Reimb	26,028.00		Tax Collector		
Mass Fair Share Revenue	122,439.00		Taxes/Interest/Fees	5,563,826.10	5,563,826.10
Green Communities Grant	87,020.00		Town Clerk		
State Aid Assessments	(65,342.00)		Dog Licenses	4,310.00	
Other State Revenue	1,514.40		Retained Fees	555.00	
CH 90 State Aid	429,286.92		Miscellaneous	895.00	5,760.00
Library Grant	8,806.33		Treasurer		
MassWorks Grant	633,000.00		Health Insurance Premiums	29,911.34	
ADA Planning Grant	25,000.00		Tax Title Revenue	43,796.51	73,707.85
Capital Improvement Grant	30,000.00		Water Dept		
Wage & Classification Plan	13,000.00		Water Receipts	390,402.80	
Charter Cable			Work Permits	2,475.00	
PEG reimbursement	11,798.35		Interest/fees	1,874.10	
Route 116 engineering	60,000.00		Earnings on Investments	3,143.43	
Opioid Settlement Revenue	121.51		Water Meter Readings	125.00	
Recreation/Events Funding	3,740.00		Mass Clean Water Trust	58,891.00	456,911.33
Veteran Services Reimb	21,694.73	2,346,308.24	Wire Inspector		
Conservation Commission			Permits	20,810.00	20,810.00
Fees/Permits	1,012.50	1,012.50	TOTAL RECEIPTS		
Council on Aging			FY 2024:	\$ 9,235,128.20	\$ 9,235,128.20
Revolving Fund Gift Account	2,355.00				
Elder Affairs Grant	15,526.00				
MCOA Grant	4,560.00				
Van Receipts	\$ 5,525.76	\$ 27,966.76			

SCHEDULE OF TRUST FUNDS:

OPEB Trust Fund	\$ 116,047.29
Stabilization	577,547.38
Capital Stabilization	266,068.48
Radio Communications Stabilization	38,147.14
Cemetery Dept - Perpetual Care	152,888.15
Cemetery Dept - Sale of Lots	25,722.96
Cemetery Dept - Whipple and Harkness	32,459.20
Cemetery Dept - Dumont	5,136.78
Cemetery Dept - Benjamin & Phyllis Bissell	1,363.29
Cemetery Dept - John L. Brown	1,663.17
Cemetery Dept - Lorraine N. Braund	44,992.22
Philip Burns Public Library	4,432.25
Philip Burns Public School	20,596.01
Westminster Chime	1,530.92
Veteran's Memorial	2,720.76
Balance June 30, 2024	\$1,291,316.00

LOANS:**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE - MUNICIPAL PURPOSE LOAN****Oppenheimer & Co.**

Loan Amount - (Renewal)	641,000.00
Water Main Replacement:	\$ 500,000.00
Highway Truck:	141,000.00
Issue Date - December 6, 2023	
Due Date - December 6, 2024	
Interest Rate - 4.50%	
Balance July 1, 2023	641,000.00
Annual Payment Amount	0.00
Interest Expense	\$ 0.00
Balance June 30, 2024	641,000.00

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, 2023	688,000.00
Paydown on Highway Truck:	(47,000.00)
BAN renewal amount:	641,000.00
Interest Expense	28,208.00
Balance June 30, 2024	0.00

BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE - DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT**Greenfield Cooperative Bank**

Loan Amount	321,600.00
Fire Truck: (Renewal)	209,000.00
Highway Truck: (Renewal)	78,000.00
Highway Grader: (Renewal)	34,600.00
Issue Date - Jan 26, 2024	
Due Date - Jan 24, 2025	
Interest Rate - 4.65%	
Balance July 1, 2023	321,600.00
Annual Payment Amount	0.00
Interest Expense	\$ 0.00
Balance June 30, 2024	\$ 321,600.00

BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE - DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT**Greenfield Cooperative Bank**

Loan Amount (Renewal)	\$ 417,200.00
Fire Truck:	\$ 244,000.00
Highway Truck:	104,000.00
Highway Grader:	69,200.00
Issue Date - Jan 27, 2023	
Due Date - Jan 26, 2024	
Interest Rate - 4.30%	
Balance July 1, 2023	417,200.00
Paydown on Fire Truck:	(35,000.00)
Paydown on Highway Truck:	(26,000.00)
Paydown on Highway Grader:	(34,600.00)
BAN renewal amount:	321,600.00
Interest Expense	17,889.77
Balance June 30, 2024	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, 2023	364,000.00
Annual Payment Amount	(13,000.00)
Interest Expense	8,190.00
Balance June 30, 2024	351,000.00

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, 2023	100,000.00
Annual Payment Amount	(100,000.00)
Interest Expense	\$ 4,750.00
Balance June 30, 2024	\$ -

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 2024 is hereby submitted:

Outstanding Taxes as of July 1, 2023:		Abatements/Exemptions:	
Real Estate	\$ 187,409.27	Real Estate	\$ 32,077.86
Personal Property	1,274.30	Personal Property	2,314.29
Motor Vehicle	53,471.88	Motor Vehicle	13,888.77
TOTAL	242,155.45	TOTAL	48,280.92
Committed to Collect:		Refunds:	
Real Estate	4,723,324.24	Real Estate	10,746.26
Omitted/Revised	5,381.19	Motor Vehicle	9,267.13
Personal Property	161,139.78	TOTAL	20,013.39
Motor Vehicle	694,440.70		
TOTAL	5,584,285.91		
Turned over to the Treasurer:		Outstanding Taxes as of June 30, 2024:	
Real Estate Taxes	4,670,458.98	Real Estate	215,257.54
Personal Property Taxes	157,601.47	Personal Property	2,508.79
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	680,876.02	Motor Vehicle	62,473.98
Tax Title	9,073.05	TOTAL	280,240.31
Mobile Home Excise	2,016.00		
Interest	23,946.75	Hoosac Lake District	
Registry Marking Fees	3,380.00	Outstanding Taxes July 1, 2023:	5,491.81
Municipal Lien Fees	1,675.00	Committed to collect:	38,677.34
Tax Collector Fees	14,380.00	Turned over to Treasurer:	-38,108.33
Deputy Collector Fees	9,351.00	Refunds:	354.25
TOTAL	\$ 5,572,758.27	Outstanding Taxes June 30, 2024:	\$ 6,415.07

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Herzog

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority

KEEP PUBLIC TRANSIT THRIVING - BRTA FY24 Annual Report

To our stakeholders,

In case you missed it, FY24 marked BRTA's 50th anniversary. While we didn't have an anniversary party with 50 candles on a cake, we did something even better. We offered two months of fare-free riding. I hope you were able to take a ride with us on us!

You may have had a chance to ride on one of our new hybrid diesel electric buses. They were wrapped with retro graphics from three decades of BRTA service. They came just in time for our anniversary, thanks to a grant from the Federal Transit Administration. BRTA wasn't the only beneficiary. The FTA grant provided \$1.5 billion to provide more than 1,100 American-made buses to 47 states.

An individual RTA could never afford to purchase these buses on its own. Nor could we successfully obtain \$2.4 million in grant money without the help of elected officials. The Berkshire delegation and other stakeholders wrote persuasive letters to support our grant application.

Our goal is to transform our public transit system. We need to replace our aging fossil fueled fleet to help reduce pollution here in the Berkshires. To that end, we have already started applying for grants for hydrogen powered vehicles.

There is a lot of uncertainty regarding funding priorities for the new year within the transit industry. If public transportation is critical to getting you to work, school, medical care or family visits, you may have to write letters, attend community meetings, or connect with others who also need and want robust public transit.

BRTA will continue to work hard to implement and retain the important gains you'll be reading about in this year's annual report. Let's keep public transit thriving for the next 50 years.

Best regards, Robert Malnati

THROUGH THE YEARS

- 1974 LEADERSHIP - **M. Michael Muzyka**
Chapter 161B Established BRTA members:
Pittsfield, Dalton, Lanesborough, Lee, Lenox,
Hinsdale, and Richmond
- 1976 LEADERSHIP - **Louis Peracha, Jr.**
- 1978 Purchase of land at Downing Industrial Park and
building of Maintenance Facility
- 1979 Adams, Great Barrington, North Adams,
and Stockbridge become BRTA members
- 1980 Williamstown, Clarksburg, and Cheshire
become BRTA members
- 1988 Installation of BRTA bus shelters
- 1993 LEADERSHIP - **Dianne Smith**
- 1998 Becket becomes BRTA member
- 1999 LEADERSHIP - **Charles MacNeil**
- 2000 Sheffield, Mt Washington, Egremont, and Alford
become BRTA members

- 2001 Monterey becomes BRTA member
- 2002 Groundbreaking and building of the
Intermodal Transportation Center (ITC)
Florida becomes BRTA member
- 2004 ITC opened
- 2007 LEADERSHIP - **Gary Shepard**
- 2009 Berkshire Community College Classes at ITC
- 2010 Windsor becomes BRTA member
- 2013 Williams College Partnership
- 2014 LEADERSHIP - **Robert Malnati**
Launched Charlie Card
- 2015 Veterans and Families Transportation Call Center
Opening at ITC
- 2017 Shop with a Cop started
- 2018 New Ashford becomes BRTA member
- 2020 Launched new BRTA website
Savoy becomes BRTA member
- 2023 Hancock, West Stockbridge, and New Marlborough
become BRTA members
- 2024 BRTA Celebrates 50 years of service

FUNDING FOR REGIONAL EXPANSION OF TRANSIT SERVICES

Thanks to a generous \$3 million state grant, three transit services—BRTA, PVRTA, and FRTA will be joining forces to provide services across the region.

These services will go into effect once Mass DOT has repaired the intercity coaches that will be used for these expanded services.

413 Commuter and Regionally Interconnected Bus Network (413 CRIB) will offer service between Northampton and Pittsfield. A bus will depart from the ITC in Pittsfield and travel via Route 9 in the morning and once again in the evening. Service between North Adams and Greenfield will involve BRTA and FRTA.

"This expansion would not be possible without the support of the Healey/Driscoll administration and the collaborative efforts of the regional transit authorities. Customers across three RTAs will be the beneficiaries," stated Bob Malnati of the BRTA.

There will be more details forthcoming once the bus repairs have been completed and the service is ready to launch.

ARE THERE ANY 50-YEAR CUSTOMERS?

BRTA issued a call for 50-year customers, and we found some!

INTRODUCING LINDA S.

Not only is Linda a 50-year BRTA veteran rider, but she also rode on the Berkshire Street Railway, the BRTA's predecessor, to get to catechism class. Later, BRTA made it possible for her to go to college at Berkshire Community College.

Today, Linda takes the bus daily.

She loves not needing a car to get around. And get around she does. She rides to her work as a substitute teacher, shops, gets to appointments, and visits family. She loves traveling by bus from Dalton to Great Barrington, Lee, and Lenox.

As Linda puts it, “Instead of getting into a freezing car, I can hop on a warm bus.”

The way Linda talks about her experience riding the bus, it’s hard to miss how much fun Linda has. She knows the drivers and enjoys many of her fellow riders.

When asked how she gets around on days without bus service, she has a quick answer. She simply does the stuff she needs to do ahead of time. And, if it’s a nice day, she may end up walking.

Thanks, Linda for sharing your BRTA experiences!

MEET STEVE Z.

Steve started riding the BRTA when he was 14 years old after his father passed away and the family had no car. Asked about where he would go, he had one answer, “Fishing.”

He would take the bus because he could haul his fishing gear. Then and today, when the buses aren’t running, Steve rides his bike to get around.

Steve really appreciates BRTA’s fare free program.

He rides the bus daily and the program really helps his budget. When asked if riding the bus is a good experience, he said, “Yes, it’s like free entertainment. Plus, you get to meet a lot of people.”

FARE FREE

BRTA’s “Try Transit” initiative, supported by a state grant, allowed for fare free service from June 1 - July 31, 2024 in celebration of BRTA’s 50th anniversary.

June Riders	52,462
July Riders	58,000*
*2nd highest ridership in 30 years!	

MEET SENATOR PAUL MARK

Representing all four western Massachusetts’ counties, Senator Mark understands the importance of public transportation to his constituents, particularly those living in the Berkshires.

With a service area the size of Rhode Island and the relative lack of population density, Senator Mark is trying to make officials in Boston aware of BRTA’s challenges. He hosts a conference each year, bringing 5-7 representatives to the region. Given Governor Healey’s interest in connectivity and equity in the Commonwealth, the region is getting much more attention.

When asked to identify three transit issues that need to be solved, he was quick to identify these:

- 1) Develop more micro-transit systems that get people from the Hilltowns to the main transit system.
- 2) Finish the work of making the Berkshire Flyer a year-round transit option and establish a reliable hub for multiple points of access.
- 3) Expand core network service times including more evening and weekend service.

BRTA appreciates Senator Mark’s strong advocacy on behalf of public transit and is working hard to develop solutions.

BROWSE, BORROW, BOARD

In conjunction with the Boston Public Library, Massachusetts Library System, and Massachusetts Department of Transportation, BRTA launched the “Browse, Borrow, Board” campaign over the summer. This partnership strives to promote literacy, local libraries, and public transportation. On the BRTA buses and at the Pittsfield Intermodal Center, signs are placed with a QR code to access the Boston Public Library, so our customers can read while they ride.

BY THE NUMBERS

REVENUES		EXPENSES	
Total Operating + Non-operating Revenues of \$9,684,697 by Source		Total Operating + Non-operating Expenses of \$9,575,221 by Source	
Federal & State operating grants	80%	Transportation services	90%
Local community assessments	11%	Administration	10%
Fixed route & demand response	6%		
Other	3%		

TOTAL RIDERSHIP

Fixed Route	539,225
Paratransit	27,840
Average customers per day	1,786

BRTA TRIP HISTORY

	FY24	FY23	FY22
Bikes	6,549	5,266	4,245
Mobility Devices	2,877	1,998	1,573
Total	9,426	7,264	5,818

OUR MISSION

To provide an **efficient** and **effective** public transportation service to **enhance** the economic vitality of the member communities through **improved access** to jobs, education, and the marketplace.

To be considered a viable alternative to the single-occupant vehicle to:

- Alleviate traffic congestion
- Contribute to the reduced dependency on foreign oil
- Contribute to the improvement of air quality

Learn more at: berkshirerta.com

Board of Assessors

The annual report of the Board of Assessors for Fiscal Year 2024 is hereby submitted.

Fiscal year 2024 Real Estate and Personal Property taxes were committed to the Tax Collector on September 28, 2023. The Hoosac Lake Restoration & Preservation District taxes were committed to the Tax Collector on November 28, 2023.

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 2024 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 \$11.97 to \$11.57.

The Hoosac Lake District tax rate decreased from \$1.27 to \$1.19.

Real Estate & Personal Property Commitments and Abatements

Commitments

Type	No. of Bills	Tax	Valuation
Real Estate	1617	\$ 4,723,324.24	\$ 408,238,208
Personal Prop	65	161,139.78	13,927,346
Hoosac Lake Dist	106	38,677.34	32,501,500
Revised/Omitted	2	5,381.19	
Total	1790	\$ 4,928,522.55	\$ 454,667,054

Abatements & Exemptions

Abatements RE	1	\$ 149.26
Abatements PP	4	2,314.29
Abatements LD	0	0.00
Elderly Exempt	19	7,270.36
Veteran Exempt	30	24,220.74
Blind Exempt	1	437.50
Clause 18 Exempt	0	0.00
Total		\$ 34,392.15

Motor Vehicle Excise Commitments & Abatements

Commitments

Year	No. of Bills	Tax
2023	503	\$ 61,725.14
2024	3,890	632,715.56
Total		\$ 694,440.70

Abatements

Year	No. of Abatements	Tax Abated
2022	4	\$ 490.85
2023	46	3,432.29
2024	91	9,965.63
Total	141	\$ 13,888.77

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Astorino
Nancy Delorey
Kellie Lahey

Cemetery Commission

To the Board of Selectmen and the residents of the Town of Cheshire, the Cemetery Commissioners herewith submit their annual report for the period of 1 January, 2024, to 31 December, 2024.

During this period there were 15 cremations, 6 full burials and 22 cemetery lots sold.

The flag pole by the vault was replaced and the refurbishing of the vault was completed.



The rehabilitation of the Cemetery Vault was completed by Brazeau Masonry with the placing of the flag on May 30, 2024.

Photos provided by Dan Roy (Facilities Maintenance Manager), and Corey McGrath (DPW Director).



Many thanks to the grounds crew at the cemetery who maintain 8 cemeteries. They do an excellent job.

Thank you to the Highway Department for opening the ground for full burials which may be complicated if ledge is found.

A future project for the Cemetery Commissioners is the digitization of all cemetery records.

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 COA continues to be a resource for all of Cheshire's Seniors. Our goal is to provide services and activities that promote health and wellbeing for all our Senior community and to obtain any service that makes their lives easier and more enjoyable.

Daily telephone calls average between 8 - 15 per day with the Community Center receiving 5,475 calls per year for assistance or general information.

We served 6,156 last year; serving "sit down" meals Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and "Grab and Go" on Thursday and Friday. In order to accomplish this, we have volunteers who have contributed approximately 1,580 hours per year for monetary savings of \$36,000 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 50 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, Stephanie Bordeau, resigned this year. Our new driver, Althea Ossenfort, has 13 - 18 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
Barbara Proper
Valerie Tyska
Doreen Aleshevich
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 2024.

In 2024 the Cheshire Fire Department responded to a total of 355 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 CFD Command staff issued burning permits, certificates of compliance for smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, oil burner installation permits, propane tank installation permits, underground oil tank removal permits, new oil tank installation permits, gasoline mobile tank storage permits, firework display permits, and blasting permits.

As I stated in previous annual reports, the CFD continues to battle an antiquated and dilapidated fire station. This year, with the formation of a public safety complex building committee, we began exploring some of our options to combine police and fire departments and merge both departments into one building. The committee met with several individuals and explored numerous options and came to the conclusion that the new building would be located at the site of the former Cheshire Elementary School on Church Street. The current location houses the town offices but a public safety building would be designed to work in conjunction with the current space needs and hopefully be a design that would be advantageous for all that utilize the building. All of this is obviously dependent on funding and the townspeople allowing the project to move forward. We are vigorously exploring funding options such as grants and alternative funding in the hopes we can lessen the burden such an expense would create to the townspeople. This year, we reached out to the original company that completed our needs assessment of our current fire station and the new cost to repair our current building exceeds 1.6 million dollars. Again, this is just to repair our current building, this cost does not include bringing the station up to current OSHA/NFPA code which is something we have to live by. The process for a new building is underway and we will present to the townspeople the plan as soon as we have a better idea of our options moving forward.

EMS ambulance coverage continues to be an issue for Cheshire. With the closing of the Adams Ambulance Service, the private ambulance company that provided ambulance transport for Cheshire for over 50 years, Cheshire has signed a contract with Northern Berkshire EMS for ambulance coverage. Prior to the closing, Northern Berkshire EMS didn't normally provide full-time coverage for Cheshire, but with the Adams Ambulance closing,

NBEMS was thrown into a quagmire and stepped up to provide coverage to Cheshire so patients could continue to receive EMS coverage rather seamlessly. EMS as a whole suffers from lack of staffing nationwide and Berkshire County is not immune to the staffing crises. I continue to partner with neighboring towns to ensure seamless ambulance transport but with the staffing shortage and ambulances traveling farther and farther from their patients, wait times for ambulance response are increasing. Again, this is not a "Cheshire problem," this is a problem that exists nationally. Together with our neighboring agencies, we continue to provide the best possible service we can to the townspeople of Cheshire and all that pass through it.

I am excited to announce that as of this writing, we are waiting for the final delivery of our new 2024 Emergency One pumper. Last year, voters approved the spending of money to purchase a new fire engine to replace our aging 2001 pumper. The pumper was approved, designed, and is in the final stages of delivery. As soon as the pumper arrives in Cheshire, it will be immediately entered into service and begin providing fire and EMS coverage to Cheshire. Thank you to the townspeople that voted to approve the funding for the new apparatus.

The Department continues to train every Thursday night. 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 members 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 skill sets as well as to keep up to date on several national certifications that our members have attained. All of the members of the CFD are certified medical responders, certified in recognizing and dealing with hazardous materials response, as well as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED). 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 those that pass through is second to none. You constantly give up time with 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. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Thomas Francesconi
Chief of Department
Cheshire Fire Department

Station: HQ - HEADQUARTERS

Incident Type Count per Station

INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS
111 - Building fire	8	444 - Power line down	5
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	1	480 - Attempted burning, illegal action, other	1
114 - Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	1	521 - Water evacuation	1
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	3	554 - Assist invalid	9
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	251	561 - Unauthorized burning	10
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	15	611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	5
323 - Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	3	622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	2
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	6	631 - Authorized controlled burning	1
362 - Ice rescue	1	651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	2
365 - Watercraft rescue	1	733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	12
381 - Rescue or EMS standby	1	736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	3
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	2	746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	1
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	2	800 - Severe weather or natural disaster, other	1
442 - Overheated motor	1	815 - Severe weather or natural disaster standby	9
		# Incidents for HQ - Headquarters:	358

2024 Cheshire Fire Department Roll Call



FIRE CHIEF

Thomas Francesconi

1st ASSISTANT CHIEF

Corey Swistak

2nd ASSISTANT CHIEF

Jason Mendonca

3rd ASSISTANT CHIEF

Shawn Martin

CAPTAIN

Kim Martin

CAPTAIN

Andy Heath

EMS CAPTAIN

Fred Balawender

FIREFIGHTERS

Chris Biddy
CJ Garner
Tim Garner

Fran Gwozdz
Del Krzeminski
Brent Lancia

Brian Lancia
Bryant Martin
Bill Rech

Christy Rech
Mike Sabato
Devon Whalen

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDERS

Corey McGrath

Sandy Martin

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

Fred Balawender

Mia Francesconi

Tom Francesconi

Corey Swistak

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS

Sofia Francesconi

Tim Kupiac

Griffin Lancia

McKenna Lancia

HONORARY MEMBERS

Michael Biagini

Ed Gwozdz

Bob Lamb Jr.

Les Rhinemiller

George Sweet

Cheshire Library Association

(This report will cover from
December 2023 to December 2024)

Another period of flux for the Library.

Jennifer Mirke filled in as interim Library Director from December to July. THANK YOU, Jenn! Jenn continues as our fill-in.

In May the Trustees welcomed Jennifer Luitjens as Library Director and she began on July 1st.

The Trustees also welcomed Jeffrey Reynolds as a new Trustee.

The following events took place:

- December – Library participated in the Town Festival of Trees with an 1898 themed tree.
- **January** – Charcuterie Boards with Kelli Kozak
- **February** – Cardmaking with Lorraine Faucher
- **March** – Easter/Spring shadowboxes with Lorraine
- **June** – “125 Celebration Tea” Celebrating the Cheshire Ladies Reading Club and the Library. The Tea was catered by the Bianchis and the St. Johns. The Trivia game was created by the Galisas.
- **July - August** – Summer Reading Program with “Read, Renew, Recycle.” The program had 62 participants. Sign-up was held on the last Tuesday in June, handing out freeze pops and holders, bookmarks, and pencils. Special Readers for the program: local author Lynn Melchiori read one of her books and did an art project; Bob Balawender presented a Beee Program; and Bob “the Wizard” Galisa returned with another story from Oz. The end was celebrated with the awarding of prizes, participation certificates, and certificates to Diane’s Twist for an ice cream. We held a drop-in evening that ended the program with freeze pops and cookies. The Summer Reading was skillfully handled by Jenn Mirke, featuring a Tuesday Story Hour and craft for all age children. Again, Thank you, Jenn!

July 1st, Jen Luitjens began as Library Director. Starting right away with a “walk around Town scavenger hunt” to find authors’ names posted on Town buildings and local businesses. On July 31st, Jen hosted the “Wizard Birthday Day,” activities included a scavenger hunt in the Library using clues from Harry Potter books, name tags made with your “Hogwarts name,” wizard jellybean boxes, and wizard wands.

- **August** – “Christmas in August” Card Making with Lorraine
- **September** – 2nd Annual Mini Art Show. Artworks from 21 participants were displayed in the Library.
- **October** – Halloween Take It and Make It. 211 Trick or Treaters came through the Library doors.
- **December** – Town Festival of Trees “I’m Dreaming Of A White Christmas” themed tree

The Library was graciously granted permission to use the prior Assessors Office for functions. Summer Reading was held in this space, as well as any Library programs. The Trustees thank the Board of Selectmen for the opportunity to use this extended space.

What’s new?

- Extended open hours
- Monday 10:00 to 2:00 pm
- Tuesday Noon to 7:00 pm
- Story Hour 11:00 – Noon (Preschoolers)
- Wednesday Noon to 5:00 pm
- Thursday 10:00am to 2:00 pm
- 1st Saturday of the month 11:00 a STEM inspired program
- Library open Noon to 2:00 pm
- Third Tuesday Trivia at 7:00 pm upstairs or remotely
- Pop-up Library once a month at the Council on Aging
- Story and Craft with the Youth Center preschoolers monthly

What does the Library offer?

Best sellers fiction and non-fiction monthly, DVDs, BluRays, Juvenile picture and chapter books, Graphic novels, Young Adult, puzzles and games to borrow.

Books may also be acquired through the CWMARS Inter-Library Loans.

Passes to local venues – Berkshire Museum, Clark Art, Hancock Shaker Village, MASS MoCA and The Mount

2024 Library Statistics

Total Current Patrons with Cheshire as their home library	616
Total Circulations	5,184
Value of Circulation	\$ 81,520
Value from other libraries	\$ 24,667
Value sent to other libraries	\$ 17,091

View us on our website, cheshirepubliclibrary.org, facebook, library [email cheshire@CWMARS.org](mailto:cheshire@CWMARS.org) and *The Cheshire Chatter*.

Come visit “our little gem of a library!”
A Cheshire Library Card is the key to all mentioned above.

Cheshire Library Trustees

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

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 Fiscal Year 2024.

The Cheshire Police Department continues to work hard, focusing this fiscal year on reducing traffic violations. We conducted over 875 motor vehicle stops, issuing over 300 citations. Overall, we have seen a reduction in violations and are receiving less complaints.

We continue to patrol 7 days a week 7 am - 11 pm, with additional coverage during high demand hours on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The Massachusetts State Police will continue to cover 11 pm - 7 am providing 24/7 coverage to the town. We continue to see an upward trend for requests of service and covered over 3,500 calls this year.

The Department's joint adventure with the Adams Police Department for our Animal Control Officer, Kim Witek, is working out well. Together we received over 181 logged calls for service. All animal control needs will be covered by the 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. Overall, we constantly strive to provide the best service for our town and its residents.

Grants - \$42,426.50 was secured during the fiscal year in grant funding, which allowed us to upgrade our Tasers to Axon Taser 7s (\$25,347.50), and a LiveScan Finger Printing System (\$17,079.00). We continue to work on available funding and have been approved for a Road Safety Grant, and are working on a grant to upgrade the current Body Worn Camera 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.

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 of Cheshire for your much outstanding support.



Respectfully submitted,
Chief Michael J. Alibozek

*Police Chief Michael Alibozek
with the Easter Bunny*

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2024

Returned Fines and Fees to the Town of Cheshire

Police Revolving Fund.....	\$ 4,626.43
Registry of MV Infractions	\$ 10,336.29
Pistol Permits	\$ 3,175.00
Report Fees	\$ 330.00
Detail Fees	\$ 17,598.83

**Total Returned Fines and Fees
to the Town Generated by the
Cheshire Police Department.....** \$36,066.55

CHESHIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT ROSTER FY 2024

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

Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District

2024

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, and 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, Dalton, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Monroe, New Ashford, Peru, Savoy, Windsor, and Williamstown. Each town appoints a representative to serve on the NBSWMD Board.

Board Officers for 2024 included: Joseph Szczepaniak Jr., Chair (Lanes borough); Douglas McNally, Vice Chair (Windsor); and Treasurer Barbara Belisle, (Savoy); and Representative.

In 2024, NBSWMD services included:

- Certification in September, 2023, of Linda Cernik, District Administrator, as a Third-Party Inspector by MassDEP for Operations and Maintenance of a Transfer Station 310 CMR. 10.018.
- The District collectively recycling 845 tons of paper/cardboard & commingle.
- Serving as Bid Administrator for hauling and processing of waste and recyclables with Casella Waste Systems, Inc.
- Acceptance of food waste by member-towns Cheshire, Windsor, and Williamstown, under the organics program. Food waste diverted from the waste stream collectively was over 23,167 pounds.
- Negotiating FY26 hauling and processing contracts.
- Coordinating special collections that are open to all fourteen member-towns, including annual events.
- Bulky and Electronics recycling events, Household Hazardous waste collections, Community Paper Shredding events, subsidized Home Composting Units, and more.
- Management of transfer station recyclables including: collection, hauling and recycling tires, electronic waste, universal waste, textiles, scrap metal, books, and Swap Shops (household goods in Hinsdale, Savoy, and Windsor).
- Outreach with local youth groups introducing MassDEP "Green Team" Program, Youth Center, Inc., Hoosac Valley Middle and High School, Plunkett Elementary, Wahconah High School, and various other member-town school district schools. Green team schools were awarded recycling equipment for their schools' continued support within the environment.
- The District diverted over 96,420 pounds of textiles (clothing, bedding, etc.) from the waste stream to CMRK clothing recycling, upcycling, and re-use programming. Textiles joined the Massachusetts State Waste Ban regulations 310 CMR 19.017 on November 1, 2022 prohibiting their disposal in the waste stream. The Town of Williamstown has added a NEW Textile Bin at their Transfer Station, from "Goodwill of the Berkshires."
- Established Mattress Recycling "HUB" in partnership with the Town of Dalton. The District diverted 359 mattresses from the waste stream. Our State contract is with Raw Materials Recovery.
- Submittal of member-town MassDEP annual recycling and solid waste surveys, grants through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Programs (SMRP), and all reporting.

The Solid Waste District held its annual Household Hazardous Waste collection on April 26, 2025, in the Town of Adams for all fourteen member-town residents, kicking-off Earth Day. This allowed residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, oil-based paints, oil, pesticides, and other products that are deemed hazardous.

The District continues to host special events for recycling, Community Paper Shredding days with Pro-Shred, four Bulky Waste and Electronics, and our Annual Household Hazardous Waste event held in April. View our web site: www.nbswmd.com for a list of all of our events, and view **2024 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Guide** and other resources.

The day-to-day program operations of the NBSWMD are managed by Director Linda Cernik. She also serves as a representative of the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, the Western Mass Regional Recycling Coordinator Group, interfaces with local, regional, and state officials, and is on a new committee creating our annual **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Guide**.

In 2024, all NBSWMD member-towns were eligible for, and received grants, under the MassDEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). Collectively the Towns received \$52,539 in grant funds to be used to further enhance recycling programming. Towns that were also awarded Swap Shop, drop-off equipment grants are: Dalton, Peru, and Savoy.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Cernik
Director

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, 2023 – June 30, 2024

The Board of Water Commissioners are pleased to submit their Annual Report for the year 2024.

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 2023 / 2024.

- 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.
- Worked with Mass DEP to remain in compliance.
- Monitored Water Usage through Drought Conditions.
- Located and Repaired four water main breaks

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, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

Number of Permits..... 100
Number of Inspections 162
Total Fees Collected..... \$ 20,780.00

Respectfully submitted,

George Sweet
Wire Inspector
Les Rhinemiller
Assistant Wire Inspector

Special Town Meeting - February 6, 2024

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

BERKSHIRE, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Cheshire in County of Berkshire,

GREETINGS.

In the name of **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the **COMMUNITY HOUSE** at 191 Church Street in said Cheshire on **TUESDAY the 6TH day of FEBRUARY, 2024**, at **SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK (6:30 p.m.)** in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

Meeting called to order by the Moderator at 6:30 pm.

Heading of the warrant was read.

Voters present: 41

Non-voters: 3

Article 1: **ACCEPTANCE OF THE SANDMILL ROAD LAYOUT**

To see if the Town will vote to accept and confirm the layout of a certain portion of Sand Mill Road as a town public way, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 82, Sections 21 through 24, for highway purposes, more particularly shown as "Sand Mill Road (Public - 49.5' Wide)" on a plan, to be recorded with the Berkshire County Registry of Deeds, entitled "Plan and Profile of Sand Mill Road Over Dry Brook, in the Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way Plans," prepared by Green International Affiliates, Inc., dated May 31, 2023, and as amended. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Cheshire Town Clerk, or take any other vote or action in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED by the BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Article Information: *This article provides for the official acceptance of the layout of a certain portion of Sand Mill Road as a public way in the Town of Cheshire. The Town has legal authority over the layout and maintenance responsibility. The BOARD OF SELECTMEN has already voted to approve the public way as proposed in the layout. Approval of this article will allow the Town to formally record this action with the Berkshire County Registry of Deeds.*

A majority vote is required to approve this article.

Motion made to accept the article as read.

Motion seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called.

Unanimous.

Article 2:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a permanent easement, consisting of 430.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of bridge components, riprap installation, and compost filter tube installation, and a temporary easement, consisting of 2,698.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of driveway reconstruction,

compost filter tube installation, grading, loam and seed, and crane swing, both on the southwesterly side of Sand Mill Road, Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, from Karen Rose Glickman, for the Sand Mill Road over Dry Brook bridge reconstruction, said land is more specifically shown as "**Parcels S-W-1 and TE-1**" on a set of plans entitled "Plan and Profile of Sand Mill Road Over Dry Brook (Bridge No. C-10-002), in the Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way Plans," prepared by Green International Affiliates, Inc., dated May 31, 2023, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$610.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Cheshire Town Clerk, or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED by the BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Motion to accept the article as read.

Motion seconded.

Discussion: None

**Moderator stated this article and
the following article require a 2/3 vote.**

Card Vote Taken.

Yes 37

No 0 (zero)

Moderator declared article passed.

Article 3:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a temporary easement, consisting of 1,981.00 square feet of land, more or less, on the northeasterly side of Sand Mill Road, Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, from Kenneth E. Szpila and Susan C. Szpila, Trustees of the Kenneth E. Szpila and Susan C. Szpila 2020 Revocable Trust, for the purpose of driveway reconstruction, tree trimming for utilities, and temporary tree protection installation for the Sand Mill Road over Dry Brook bridge reconstruction, said land is more specifically shown as "**Parcel TE-2**" on a set of plans entitled "Plan and Profile of Sand Mill Road Over Dry Brook (Bridge No. C-10-002), in the Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way Plans," prepared by Green International Affiliates, Inc., dated May 31, 2023, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$300.00 for the acquisition of said

easement. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Cheshire Town Clerk, or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED by the BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Motion to accept the article as read.

Motion seconded.

Discussion: none

Card Vote Taken.

Yes 37 No 0 (zero)

Moderator declared article passed.

Article 4:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a permanent easement, consisting of 465.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of bridge components and riprap installation, and a temporary easement, consisting of 2,408.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of temporary utility pole and guy wire, temporary overhead wire, compost filter tube installation, grading, loam and seed, and vegetation clearing and thinning, both on the northeasterly side of Sand Mill Road, Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, from Mark E. Cyrulik, for the Sand Mill Road over Dry Brook bridge reconstruction, said land is more specifically shown as “**Parcels S-W-2 and TE-4**” on a set of plans entitled “Plan and Profile of Sand Mill Road Over Dry Brook (Bridge No. C-10-002), in the Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way Plans,” prepared by Green International Affiliates, Inc., dated May 31, 2023, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$480.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Cheshire Town Clerk, or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED by the BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Motion to accept the article as read.

Motion seconded.

Discussion: None

Card Vote Taken.

Yes 37 No 0 zero)

Moderator declared the article passed.

Article 5:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a permanent easement, consisting of 124.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of guy wire installation, a permanent easement, consisting of 621.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of bridge components and riprap installation, and a temporary easement, consisting of 2,894.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of temporary utility pole and guy wire, compost filter tube installation, grading, loam and seed, and vegetation clearing and thinning,

and a temporary easement, consisting of 669.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of vegetation clearing and thinning, and a temporary easement, consisting of 129.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of vegetation clearing and thinning, all on the northeasterly side of Sand Mill Road, Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, from Matthew Joseph Dellaghelfa and Jacquelyn Rose Schneider, for the Sand Mill Road over Dry Brook bridge reconstruction, said land is more specifically shown as “**Parcels PUE-2, S-W-3, TE-5, TE-9 and TE-10**” on a set of plans entitled “Plan and Profile of Sand Mill Road Over Dry Brook (Bridge No. C-10-002), in the Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way Plans,” prepared by Green International Affiliates, Inc., dated May 31, 2023, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$920.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Cheshire Town Clerk, or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED by the BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Motion to accept the article as read.

Motion seconded.

Discussion: None

Card Vote Taken.

Yes 37 No 0 (zero)

Moderator declared the article passed.

Article 6:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a permanent easement, consisting of 1,087.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of bridge components and riprap installation, a permanent easement, consisting of 135.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of utility pole and guy wire installation, and a temporary easement, consisting of 2,556.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of driveway reconstruction, compost filter tube installation, and crane swing, and a temporary easement, consisting of 98.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of compost filter tube installation, and a temporary easement, consisting of 369.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of tree trimming, all on the southwesterly side of Sand Mill Road, Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, from Kristine A. Megaro, for the Sand Mill Road over Dry Brook bridge reconstruction, said land is more specifically shown as “**Parcels D-S-W-1, PUE-3, TE-7, TE-8 and TE-11**” on a set of plans entitled “Plan and Profile of Sand Mill Road Over Dry Brook (Bridge No. C-10-002), in the Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way Plans,” prepared by Green International Affiliates, Inc., dated May 31, 2023, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$600.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Cheshire Town Clerk, or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED by the BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Motion to accept the article as read.

Motion seconded.

*Discussion: Mrs. Megaro asked if pedestrian traffic would be allowed.
Selectmen answered yes.*

Mrs. Megaro then asked the timeframe on bridge project.

Selectmen answered two to three years.

Card Vote Taken: **Yes 37 No 0 (zero)**

Moderator declared the article passed.

Article 7:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a permanent easement, consisting of 660.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of utility pole and guy wire installation, a permanent easement, consisting of 102.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of guy wire installation, and a temporary easement, consisting of 136.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of tree trimming, all on the southwesterly side of Sand Mill Road, Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, from Louay I. Safa, for the Sand Mill Road over Dry Brook bridge reconstruction, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels PUE-4, PUE-6 and TE-12" on a set of plans entitled "Plan and Profile of Sand Mill Road Over Dry Brook (Bridge No. C-10-002), in the Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way Plans," prepared by Green International Affiliates, Inc., dated May 31, 2023, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$400.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Cheshire Town Clerk, or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED by the BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Motion to accept the article as read.

Motion seconded.

Discussion: None

Card Vote Taken: **Yes 37 No 0 (zero)**

Moderator declared the article passed.

Article 8:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a permanent easement, consisting of 1,009.00 square feet of land, more or less, on the southwesterly side of Sand Mill Road, Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, from Krystyl Suzanne Safa, for the purpose of utility pole and guy wire installation for the Sand Mill Road over Dry Brook bridge reconstruction, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcel PUE-5" on a set of plans entitled "Plan and Profile of Sand Mill Road Over Dry Brook (Bridge No. C-10-002), in the Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way Plans," prepared by Green International Affiliates, Inc.,

dated May 31, 2023, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$550.00 for the acquisition of said easement. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Cheshire Town Clerk, or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED by the BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Motion to accept the article as read.

Motion seconded.

Discussion: None.

Card Vote Taken: **Yes 37 No 0 (zero)**

Moderator declared the article passed.

Article 9:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a temporary easement, consisting of 75.00 square feet of land, more or less, on the northeasterly side of Sand Mill Road, Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, from Gretchen H. Thomas, Elizabeth E. Figueroa, and Dennis L. Thomas, Jr., for the purpose of temporary tree protection installation for the Sand Mill Road over Dry Brook bridge reconstruction, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcel TE-13" on a set of plans entitled "Plan and Profile of Sand Mill Road Over Dry Brook (Bridge No. C-10-002), in the Town of Cheshire, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way Plans," prepared by Green International Affiliates, Inc., dated May 31, 2023, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$10.00 for the acquisition of said easement. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Cheshire Town Clerk, or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED by the BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Motion to accept the article as read.

Motion seconded.

Discussion: None.

Card Vote Taken: **Yes 37 No 0 (zero)**

Moderator declared the article passed.

Article 10: To transact any other business that may properly come before this meeting or to take any other action thereto.

Motion made to dissolve this meeting. Motion seconded.

Voice vote called. **Unanimous.**

Moderator, Carol Francesconi dissolved
the meeting at 6:54 pm.

Thanking everyone that attended.

Thank you to Chief Alibozek for counting the voter cards.

ATTEST: True Copy

Christine B. Emerson

Cheshire Town Clerk

February 12, 2024

Presidential Primary Results - March 5, 2024

Registered Voters 2,528		Ballots Cast 571	
DEMOCRAT		REPUBLICAN	
Presidential Preference		Presidential Preference	
Dean Phillips	8	Chris Christie	2
Joseph R. Biden	251	Ryan Binkley	0
Marianne Williamson	14	Vivek Ramaswamy	0
No Preference Democrat	15	Asa Hutchinson	0
*Cenk Uygur	0	Donald J. Trump	184
All others	1	Ron DeSantis	2
Blanks	3	Nikki Haley	80
Total Votes Cast 292		No Preference Republican	1
		All others	2
		Blanks	2
STATE COMMITTEE MAN		Total Votes Cast 273	
Sherwood Guernsey II	254		
All others	0	STATE COMMITTEE MAN	
Blanks	38	Nicholas A. Boldyga	173
Total Votes Cast 292		All others	4
		Blanks	96
		Total Votes Cast 273	
STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN			
Marietta Rose Rapetti Cawse	114	STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN	
Megan Elise Arvin	110	Jessica L. Bolodyga	171
All Others	0	All others	4
Blanks	68	Blanks	98
Total Votes Cast 292		Total Votes Cast 273	
TOWN COMMITTEE		TOWN COMMITTEE (REPUBLICAN)	
None of the write-ins garnered enough votes.		No write-in to garner enough votes	
LIBERTARIAN			
Presidential Preference		STATE COMMITTEE MAN	
Jabob George Hornberger	0	No Nomination	0
Michael D. Rectenwald	0	All others	1
Chase Russell Oliver	1	Blanks	5
Michael Ter Maat	0	Total Votes Cast 6	
Lars Damian Mapstead	0		
No Preference Libertarian	3	STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN	
All others	0	No Nomination	0
Blanks	2	All others	0
Total Votes Cast 6		Blanks	6
		Total Votes Cast 6	
		TOWN COMMITTEE (LIBERTARIAN)	
		No write-in to garner enough votes.	

Cheshire Annual Election Warrant - May 6, 2024

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.

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024
Community House Cafeteria
191 Church Street
Polls open: 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

To elect the following:

- Two Selectmen for the terms of three years each
- One Board of Assessors Member for a term of three years
- One Town Clerk for a term of three years
- One Board of Health Member for a term of three years
- One Cemetery Commissioner for a term of three years
- One Water Commissioner for a term of three years
- One Planning Board Member for a term of five years
- One Hoosac Valley Regional School District School Committee Member for Cheshire for a term of three years
- One Hoosac Valley Regional School District School Committee Member from Adams for a term of three years

Question One:

"Shall the Town of Cheshire vote the position of Board Assessors from elected to appointed?"

Yes _____

No _____

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at 5 places in said Town, seven days at least before the time of holding of said election.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at the time and place of the election, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 23rd day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four.

Shawn McGrath
Michelle Francesconi
Raymond Killeen
Jason Levesque
Ronald DeAngelis

Cheshire Annual Election Results - May 6, 2024

OFFICE	NAME	VOTES	OFFICE	NAME	VOTES
Selectmen <i>3 year for each (Vote for 2)</i>			Water Commissioner <i>3 year term</i>		
	Mark Biagini	204		Ricky Gurney	349
	Raymond Killeen	234		Write-ins	2
	Shawn McGrath	257		Blanks	57
	Write-ins	3			408
	Blanks	118			
			Planning Board <i>5 year term</i>		
Assessor <i>3 year term</i>				Peter Traub	317
	Kellie Lahey	348		Write-ins	3
	Write-ins	1		Blanks	88
	Blanks	59			408
		408			
Town Clerk <i>3 year term</i>			Hoosac Valley Regional School District School Committee Member from Cheshire <i>3 year term</i>		
	Write-ins			Robert Tetlow, Jr.	361
	Whitney Flynn	57		Write-ins	0
	Christine Emerson	14		Blanks	47
	All Others	21			408
	Blanks	316			
		408			
Board of Health <i>3 year term</i>			Hoosac Valley Regional School District School Committee Member from Adams <i>3 year term</i>		
	Brian Trudeau	344		Frederick Lora	140
	Write-ins	2		Jennifer Solak	184
	Blanks	62		Write-ins	0
		408		Blanks	87
Cemetery Commissioner <i>3 year term</i>					
	Timothy Garner	358	QUESTION 1:		
	Write-ins	3	<i>“Shall the Board of Assessors become appointed not elected?”</i>		
	Blanks	47		YES	152
		408		NO	219
				Blanks	37
					408

Respectfully submitted,

Christine B. Emerson

Annual Town Meeting - June 10, 2024

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Berkshire SS.
Monday, June 10, 2024, at 7:00 PM
191 Church Street

Moderator: Carol Francesconi
Town Clerk: Whitney Flynn
Board of Selectmen: Chair Shawn McGrath,
Vice-Chair Jason Levesque,
Michelle Francesconi,
Raymond Killeen, Ronald DeAngelis
Finance Committee: John Tremblay, Denise Gregoire,
Kathleen Levesque, Patrick Pettit,
Michael Biagini
Town Administrator: Jennifer Morse
Town Counsel: Donna MacNicol –
MacNicol and Tombs

The Town of Cheshire’s Annual Town Meeting was held on Monday, June 10, 2024, at the Cheshire Community House, located at 191 Church Street.

Board of Registrar, Elizabeth King, began voter check-in at 6:30 PM.

In attendance were one hundred and twenty-six (126) voters and five (5) guests.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Moderator Francesconi and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Francesconi welcomed the voters and explained the rules of the meeting. She asked the non-voters in the room to identify themselves. Each member of the table was introduced.

On behalf of the Town of Cheshire, Selectman Chair McGrath presented a clock to former Town Clerk, Christine Emerson, for her 30 years of dedication.

Moderator Francesconi read the warrant heading and asked to waive the reading of the balance of the warrant.

Motion was made and seconded.

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

Article 1: Reports of Officers
To act on the reports of the Town Officers.

Majority Vote Required

The Annual Town Reports are presented for this article.

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called Motion Carried, Unanimous.

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 pursuant

to the M.G.L., c.41, §108, to be made effective as of July 1, 2024, as contained in the budget, or take any action in relation thereto.

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called Motion Carried, Unanimous

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 in accordance with the law or take any action in relation thereto.

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called Motion Carried, Unanimous

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, 2024, 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 was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called Motion Carried, Unanimous

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.

2/3 Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Card Vote 104 in favor, 1 opposed; 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 was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

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 2025, or take any action in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

Article 8: GENERAL GOVERNMENT

To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sum of \$1,509,096 for the conduct of **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**, including all charges and expenses of the various town offices, for Fiscal Year 2025, or take any action in relation thereto:

	FY24 Voted	FY25 Proposed
Legal Services	12,500.00	20,000.00
Moderator Salary	50.00	50.00
Moderator Expenses	25.00	0.00
Board of Selectmen		
Stipends (5 @ \$3,787)	18,935.00	18,935.00
Board of Selectmen Expenses	10,400.00	10,400.00
Clean Lake Program	26,206.00	26,206.00
MS4 – Stormwater Compliance	7,500.00	7,500.00
Group Purchasing (Procurement)	800.00	800.00
Town Audit	10,000.00	10,000.00
Information Technology	45,000.00	52,364.00
Town Website	5,250.00	5,250.00
Town Administrator Salary	85,000.00	90,000.00

	FY24 Voted	FY25 Proposed
Executive Assistant (former Muni Clerk)	0.00	25,931.00
Municipal Clerk/ Asst. Treasurer Collector	45,936.00	0.00
Town Administrator Expenses	3,000.00	3,000.00
Accounting Services	31,500.00	34,800.00
Accounting Software (VADAR)	4,348.00	4,348.00
Assessors Stipend (Chairperson)	3,883.00	3,883.00
Assessors Stipends (Members 2 @ \$3,328)	6,656.00	6,656.00
Assessors Administrator Salary	31,905.00	32,862.00
Assessors Expenses	3,910.00	3,910.00
Assessors Contracted Services	34,140.00	48,985.00
Treasurer/Collector Salary	63,488.00	65,393.00
Asst. Treasurer/Collector Salary	0.00	20,468.00
Treasurer/Collector Expenses	12,500.00	12,500.00
Treasurer Payroll Processing	2,000.00	4,000.00
Treasurer/Collector Tax Title Expenses	4,000.00	4,000.00
Treasurer/Collector Certification Stipend	1,000.00	1,000.00
QDS Software – RE/PP Collections	3,245.00	3,342.00
Finance Committee Expenses	1,500.00	1,500.00
Town Clerk Salary	27,722.00	28,554.00
Town Clerk Expenses	3,150.00	3,150.00
Town Clerk Dog License Expense	400.00	400.00
Town Clerk Book Repair	2,500.00	2,500.00
Town Clerk Copy Machine Contract	1,500.00	0.00
Town Clerk Census/Lists	3,200.00	3,200.00
Board of Registrars/Elections	10,000.00	15,000.00
Town Report Printing	2,700.00	2,700.00
Conservation Commission Stipends (3 @ \$510)	1,530.00	1,530.00
Conservation Commission Consult	500.00	500.00
Conservation Commission Expenses	1,500.00	1,500.00
Planning Board Expenses	2,515.00	2,515.00
Planning Board BRPC Assessment	2,774.00	2,843.00
Planning Board Stipends (5 @ \$320)	1,600.00	1,600.00
Planning Board Scribe	750.00	0.00
Agricultural Commission Expenses	500.00	500.00
Historical Commission Expenses	500.00	500.00
Zoning Board of Appeals Expenses	800.00	800.00

	FY24 Voted	FY25 Proposed
Berkshire County Retirement	152,452.00	173,753.00
OPEB Funding	20,000.00	20,000.00
OPEB Actuarial Services Study	2,200.00	2,200.00
Health Insurance – Active	230,063.00	265,726.00
Health Insurance – Retiree	42,295.00	40,000.00
Heath Insurance – Dental	8,500.00	8,500.00
Unemployment	10,000.00	5,000.00
MEDC Employer Share	16,000.00	16,500.00
Town Hall/Police Utilities	32,100.00	25,000.00
Fire Station Utilities	18,500.00	15,000.00
Town Garage Utilities	15,000.00	13,000.00
Senior Center Utilities	7,000.00	7,500.00
Town Phone Systems	15,000.00	15,000.00
Community House Utilities	60,000.00	70,000.00
Town Building Repairs	125,000.00	120,000.00
ADA Compliance	0.00	5,000.00
Town Insurance & Bonds	99,563.00	104,542.00
Police/Fire Accident/ Disability Insurance	15,620.00	16,500.00
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	1,408,111.00	1,509,096.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article, excluding items set aside in bold, was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

Motion to accept the remaining items set aside in bold, was made and seconded.

Discussion: Questions regarding the increases in the line items. Legal Services - Ongoing litigation due to the Town being sued, case Warner VS. Cheshire. Information Technology - Increases in MIIA Insurance, a grant was applied for to help offset the costs. Town Administrator Salary - \$2 Million in grant funding was obtained, amount of \$85,000 was approved by voters when initially seeking to fill position, current Administrator was hired at less; so, the 6% increase will align with what would have been allowed; has more than proven worth it. Accounting Services – Outside Accountants increase in Hilltown Municipal contract. Assessors Contracted Services – Re-evaluation every 5 years per state required mandate. Board of Registrars/Elections – Extra election this year, costs associated with machines, payroll, mailings, etc. Berkshire County Retirement – More people on retirement, OPEB up 7% per assessment from Berkshire County Retirement; state statutes being monitored to stay solvent.

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

Article 9: HOOSAC VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

To see if the Town will approve the Hoosac Valley Regional School District Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 and **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE or TRANSFER FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS \$3,098,996** to pay its assessed share of the budget or take any action in relation thereto.

	FY24 Voted	FY25 Proposed
HVRSD		
Minimum Local Contribution	2,219,724.00	2,350,010.00
HVRSD		
Over Minimum Foundation	405,970.00	406,505.00
HVRSD Transportation	133,032.00	135,355.00
HVRSD Capital Expenditure	189,736.00	207,126.00
HVRSD SUBTOTAL	2,948,462.00	3,098,996.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to transfer from available funds the amount of \$2,948,462.00 and to raise and appropriate \$150,534.00 with the approval of a Proposition 2 ½ Override ballot question to fully fund Hoosac Valley Regional School District was made and seconded.

Discussion: Many voters presented questions regarding Article 9. Superintendent Aaron Dean spoke on behalf of the school district in defense of the budget as presented, outlining the necessary costs associated with funding the school. The Finance Committee recommended utilizing available funds in Stabilization and Free Cash to support the school budget as presented. The Selectboard defended the decision to keep money in Stabilization and Free Cash as an emergency fund for the Town and to allow the decision to fully fund the school budget, or not, be voted on in a Special Election for a 2 ½ override question; if voted down the school would have to run on a 1/12 level funded budget until a resolution was made.

Card Vote **71 in favor, 42 opposed; Motion Carried**

Article 10: NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

To see if the Town will approve the Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 and **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE \$547,430.00** to pay its assessed share of the budget or take any action in relation thereto.

	FY24 Voted	FY25 Proposed
NBVRSD Budget	564,446.00	547,430.00
OTHER EDUCATION SUBTOTAL	564,446.00	547,430.00

**Board of Selectmen Recommends
Majority Vote Required**

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

Article 11: BUILDING DEPARTMENT

To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sum of **\$41,008** for the **BUILDING DEPARTMENT** for Fiscal Year 2025, or take any action in relation thereto:

	FY24 Voted	FY25 Proposed
Building Commissioner Salary	18,000.00	18,540.00
Alternate Building Commissioner Salary	500.00	500.00
Building Commissioner Expenses	1,100.00	1,100.00
Online Permitting System	5,075.00	5,400.00
Gas/Plumbing Inspector Salary	5,900.00	6,077.00
Gas/Plumbing Inspector Assistant Salary	549.00	549.00
Gas/Plumbing Expenses	500.00	500.00
Wiring Inspector Salary	6,857.00	7,063.00
Wiring Inspector Assistant Salary	579.00	579.00
Wiring Inspector Expenses	700.00	700.00
TOTAL BUILDING DEPARTMENT	39,760.00	41,008.00

**Board of Selectmen Recommends
Majority Vote Required**

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

Article 12: PUBLIC SAFETY

To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sum of **\$468,052** for **PUBLIC SAFETY** for Fiscal Year 2025, or take any action in relation thereto:

	FY24 Voted	FY25 Proposed
Police Chief Salary	82,392.00	84,864.00
Police Full Time Officer Wages	108,551.00	172,658.00
Police Department Part-Time Officers	26,664.00	17,885.00
Police Department Expenses	5,000.00	13,500.00
Police Department Equipment	10,500.00	20,400.00
Police Department Auto Expenses	15,000.00	8,000.00
Police Department Officer OT/Holiday Pay	8,000.00	12,500.00
Animal Control Contracted Services	3,000.00	3,000.00
Animal Control Expenses	1,000.00	1,000.00
Fire Chief Salary	12,000.00	12,360.00
Asst. Fire Chief Stipends (2 @ 1,615)	3,230.00	3,326.00
Fire Department Expenses	62,000.00	62,000.00
Fire Department Volunteer Stipends (25)	25,000.00	25,000.00
Fire Department EMS Supplies	4,500.00	4,500.00
Communications Center (Dispatch)	24,000.00	24,559.00
Emergency Management Director Stipend	1,500.00	1,500.00
Emergency Management Expenses	1,000.00	1,000.00
PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL	393,337.00	468,052.00

**Board of Selectmen Recommends
Majority Vote Required**

Motion to accept the article, excluding items set aside in bold, was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

Motion to accept the remaining items set aside in bold, was made and seconded.

Discussion: Questions regarding the increases in the line items. Police Full Time Officer Wages – Coverage for an additional full-time officer to replace the School Resource Officer's hours; of which 85% will be covered using Rural Aid reimbursement. Police Department Equipment – To equip the School Resource Officer, which will also be covered by Rural Aid reimbursement.

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

**Article 13: HIGHWAY OPERATIONS
AND TREE WARDEN**

To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sum of **\$1,047,592** for **HIGHWAY OPERATIONS AND TREE WARDEN** for Fiscal Year 2025, or take any action in relation thereto:

	FY24 Voted	FY25 Proposed
Highway Workers Wages (3 Laborers, 1 Foreman)	209,911.00	229,208.00
Seasonal DPW Laborers (Cemetery) Wages	37,822.00	27,822.00
Highway Department Longevity (contract)	1,500.00	1,500.00
Department of Public Works Director	90,000.00	79,100.00
Custodian Wages	19,648.00	20,237.00
Highway Department Non-Winter Overtime	5,000.00	5,000.00
Highway Department Dues/Training/Licenses	1,000.00	1,000.00
Facilities/Grounds Wages	49,466.00	50,950.00
Road Machinery, Tools, Gas	126,000.00	126,000.00
Streetlights	53,000.00	60,000.00
Highway Department Repair/Maint. Roads	207,000.00	207,000.00
Highway Equipment Rental	5,000.00	5,000.00
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
Cemetery Commission Stipends	2,661.00	2,661.00
Cemetery Commission Expenses	8,114.00	6,114.00
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	1,042,122.00	1,047,592.00

**Board of Selectmen Recommends
Majority Vote Required**

Motion to accept the article as presented was made
and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

Article 14: RECREATION AND CULTURE

To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sum of **\$85,328** for **RECREATION AND CULTURE** for Fiscal Year 2025, or take any action in relation thereto.

	FY24 Voted	FY25 Proposed
Recreation General Expenses/ Memorial Day	12,000.00	10,300.00
Library Assessment	39,442.00	40,428.00
Father Tom Campsite	0	1,700.00
Veteran Agent Services (Shared)	2,000.00	2,000.00
Veteran Benefits	30,000.00	30,000.00
Cemetery Flags	800.00	900.00
TOTAL RECREATION & CULTURE	84,242.00	85,328.00

**Board of Selectmen Recommends
Majority Vote Required**

Motion to accept the article as presented was made
and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

Article 15: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sum of **\$100,364.00** for **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** for Fiscal Year 2025, or take any action in relation thereto.

	FY24 Voted	FY25 Proposed
Board of Health Stipends (3 @ \$3,883)	11,649.00	11,649.00
Board of Health Expenses	5,500.00	5,500.00
Board of Health/ Health Inspector Services	0.00	5,000.00
Board of Health MAVEN Reporting	4,525.00	4,639.00
Senior Center/COA Expenses	8,470.00	8,470.00
Senior Center/COA Van Operating Expenses	5,900.00	3,400.00
Senior Center/COA Van Operator Salary	19,138.00	19,712.00
Council on Aging Medical Car Ride Share	1,500.00	0.00
Senior Center Director Salary	26,771.00	27,574.00
Senior Center Meals Coordinator Salary	13,311.00	13,710.00

	FY24 Voted	FY25 Proposed
Animal Inspector Stipend	544.00	560.00
Animal Inspector Expenses	150.00	150.00
TOTAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	97,458.00	100,364.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

Article 16: TRANSFER STATION ENTERPRISE FUND - Adoption

To see if the Town will accept the Provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53F1/2 of the Massachusetts General Laws establishing a **Transfer Station Enterprise Fund** effective fiscal year 2025, or take any action in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: Question to clarify an Enterprise Fund. Chair Shawn McGrath stated the Enterprise Fund is an accounting function to have the Transfer Station become self-sufficient; the goal is to not use Town funds to operate.

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, 1 Opposed**

Article 17: TRANSFER STATION ENTERPRISE FUND
To see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE from user fees or otherwise provide the following sums of money \$106,090** to operate the **TRANSFER STATION ENTERPRISE FUND AND TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE FROM THE GENERAL FUND THE SUM OF \$61,079** for the Fiscal Year 2025, or take an action in relation thereto.

Revenues

Department Receipts	106,090.00
General Fund Subsidy	61,079.00
TOTAL	167,289.00

Expenses	
Hauling and Disposal	100,000.00
Site Maintenance	2,600.00
Training and Education	500.00
Permits and Tags	4,500.00
Attendants Wages	24,689.00
Recycling Account	35,000.00
TOTAL	167,289.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

Article 18: DEBT SERVICE EXPENSES

To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sum of **\$168,817** to fund **DEBT SERVICE EXPENSES** for the Fiscal Year 2025, or take any action in relation thereto.

	FY24 Voted	FY25 Proposed
Well Land Bond Payment (2024)	104,750.00	0.00
Fire Truck (2030)	45,463.00	44,665.00
Highway Grader (2026)	37,567.00	36,200.00
Highway Truck (Voted 2022)	54,708.00	53,345.00
Highway Truck (Voted 2021)	30,460.00	29,607.00
Short-term Debt Interest	5,000.00	5,000.00
Total	277,948.00	168,817.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

Article 19: Revolving Fund Bylaw
To see if the town will vote to amend the general by-laws of the Town of Cheshire by adding a new section to establish and authorize revolving funds for use by certain town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

ARTICLE (of the general by-laws)

DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS

1. **Purpose.**
This by-law establishes and authorizes revolving funds for use by town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in connection with the operation of programs or activities that generate fees, charges or other receipts to support all or some of the expenses of those programs or activities. These revolving funds are established under and governed by General Laws Chapter 44 § 53E1/2.
2. **Expenditure Limitations.**
An authorized department or agency head, board, committee or officer may incur liabilities against and spend monies from a revolving fund established and authorized by this by-law without appropriation subject to the following limitations:
- A. Fringe benefits of full-time employees whose salaries or wages are paid from the fund shall also be paid from the fund (except for those employed as school bus drivers.)
 - B. No liability shall be incurred in excess of the available balance of the fund.
 - C. The total amount spent during a fiscal year shall not exceed the amount authorized by this by-law, or town meeting on or before July 1 of that fiscal year, or any increased amount of that authorization that is later approved during that fiscal year by the selectboard and finance committee.

3. **Interest.**
Interest earned on monies credited to a revolving fund established by this by-law shall be credited to the general fund.
4. **Procedures and reports.**
Except as provided in General Laws Chapter 44 §53E1/2 and this by-law, the laws, by-laws, rules, regulations, policies or procedures that govern the receipt and custody of town monies and the expenditure and payment of town funds shall apply to the use of a revolving fund established and authorized by this by-law. The town accountant shall include a statement on the collections credited to each fund, the encumbrances and expenditures charged to the fund and the balance available for expenditure in the regular report the town accountant provides the department, board, committee, agency or officer on appropriations made for its use.
5. **Authorized Revolving Funds.** The Table establishes:
- A. Each revolving fund authorized for use by a town department, board, committee, agency or officer.
 - B. The department or agency head, board, committee or officer authorized to spend from each fund.
 - C. The fees, charges and other monies charged and received by the department, board, committee, agency or officer in connection with the program or activity for which the fund is established that shall be credited to each fund by the Town Accountant.
 - D. The expenses of the program or activity for which each fund may be used.
 - E. Any restrictions or conditions on expenditures from each fund.
 - F. Any reporting or other requirements that apply to each fund, and
 - G. The fiscal years each fund shall operate under this by-law.

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

Revolving Fund	Entity Authorized to Spend from Fund	Fee, Charges, or Receipts Credited to Fund	Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund	Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund	Fiscal Years
Senior Center/COA	Senior Center Director	Receipts related to program fees	Senior Center Programs	Limit of \$10,000	Fiscal Year 2025 & Subsequent Years
Recreation	Recreation Committee/ Board of Selectmen	Receipts related to program fees	Recreation Committee Programs	Limit of \$10,000	Fiscal Year 2025 & Subsequent Years
Police Department	Police Chief	Receipts from Detail Fees	Police Cruiser Expenses	Limit of \$10,000	Fiscal Year 2025 & Subsequent Years

(The Municipal Modernization Act required that Revolving Funds become a town general bylaw rather than have general articles for Revolving Funds each year. Once established in a general bylaw, then each year the only vote necessary would be to authorize the spending limits for each fund. In addition for the authorization there must be five separate categories authorized, name of the fund; person or body authorized to expend the funds, source of the funds, use of the funds and the spending limit.)

Article 20: CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the sum of \$10,000 to fund the CAPITAL STABILIZATION 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 was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

Article 21: Police Cruiser – Debt Exclusion

To see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** a sum not to exceed \$66,151.00 and to authorize the Treasurer, per MGL Chapter 44, Section 2, to borrow \$66,151.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new Police Cruiser on a one year note to be paid by June 30, 2025, contingent upon subsequent passage of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion vote, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(This article requires a two-thirds vote for borrowing approval and subsequent majority vote for a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion to be held at a future election.)

Board of Selectmen Recommends

2/3 Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: Question by voter, why does Cheshire need a third police car? Police Chief Michael Alibozek explained that the School Resource Officer would need a vehicle stationed at the school; this debt does not stay on tax amount once resolved. Voter questioned use of police cruiser for detail work. Sargeant David Tarjick explained that the Town generates revenue of \$50.00/day for this request on a detail; SRO needs a vehicle exclusively for storage and transport.

Card Vote **98 in favor, 11 opposed; Article Passed**

Article 22: Fire Truck – Debt Exclusion

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, per MGL Chapter 44, Section 2, to borrow a sum not to exceed \$850,000 (eight-hundred fifty thousand dollars) for the purpose of purchasing a new Fire Engine, contingent upon subsequent passage of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion vote, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(This article requires a two-thirds vote for borrowing approval and subsequent majority vote for a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion to be held at a future election.)

Board of Selectmen Recommends

2/3 Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: Fire Chief Thomas Francesconi asked the Town for permission to support a new fire truck, explained the issues with the existing engine, and informed that the quote was for a boiler plate model with NFPA required qualifications; amount quoted would increase 12-14% per year (approximately \$100,000).

Card Vote **104 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 Abstained; Article Passed**

Article 23: Water Department

Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings

To see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** the sum of \$167,118 from available certified Water Operations Surplus for the purpose of conducting Phase 2 - North State Water Main Replacement (Crest Road to East View Drive), or take any action relative thereto.

Current balance of Cheshire Water Department retained earnings is \$258,082

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Water Commission Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

Article 24: Water Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, transfer from retained earnings, or otherwise provide the following sums of money \$345,060 to operate the **Water Enterprise Fund** for the Fiscal Year 2025, or take an action in relation thereto.

Revenues

Department Receipts	345,060.00
Retained Earnings	0.00
TOTAL	345,060.00

Expenses

Water Commissioner Stipends	9,939.00
Water Operator Salary	61,800.00
Secondary Water Operator Salary	15,600.00
Water Department Collector Salary	6,823.00
Water Main Replacements	90,000.00
Water Operating Expenses	45,000.00
Water Maintenance Expenses	45,000.00
Water Debt Service	63,398.00
Water Vehicle Expense	7,500.00
TOTAL	345,060.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Water Commission Recommends
Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called

Motion Carried, Unanimous

Article 25: Free Cash to reduce the tax rate

To see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** from **FREE CASH** a sum **and TRANSFER FROM GENERAL STABILIZATION** a sum to reduce the FY25 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 ½, this is not a reduction to the tax rate.

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Majority Vote Required

Motion to transfer \$91,912.00 from Free Cash to balance the operating budget and stay within the limits of Proposition 2 ½ to reduce the FY25 Tax Rate was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called

Motion Carried, Unanimous

Article 26: LOCAL OPTION – Meals Tax

To see if the Town will vote to adopt G.L. Chapter 64L, Section 2(a) to impose a local sales tax upon the sale of restaurant meals within the town, or take any action in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: Voters questioned why the Selectboard is proposing to add an additional expense to a meal out, as it will only hurt the restaurant if people choose not to go because of this. Raymond Killeen explained this would only be 3/4% increase. CJ Garner spoke in opposition to the tax, as a restaurant owner in Town.

Voice Vote Called

Motion Rejected
Article Failed, Majority

Article 27: MGL regarding Collector Office

To see if the Town will vote to adopt MGL Chapter 41, Section 38A to expand the authority of the collector office to receive and collect all monies or accounts due a municipality, or take any action in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: Questions by voter what is the advantage and does the pay increase with the additional workload for the finance office? Chair McGrath stated the convenience to the tax-payers of paying everything in one location and taking interruptions away from Administrator's office, where Transfer Station tags are currently being sold; no salary increase for this in FY25, but would be looked into going forward.

Voice Vote Called

Motion Carried, Unanimous

Article 28: Short-Term Rental Standards General Bylaw

To see if the town will vote to amend the general by-laws of the Town of Cheshire by adding a new section to establish Short-Term Rental Standards, or take an action in relation thereto.

Moderator Francesconi stated she would not be reading this article in its entirety.

Standards for Short-Term Rentals

The Town of Cheshire supports the safe and legal operation of Short-Term Rental dwellings to support the local economy and offer a variety of overnight lodging options for visitors to the Town. The performance standard section will offer the assurance that all Short-Term Rental properties will be acceptable uses within the Town of Cheshire if the Performance Standards are met for any given property and that the property owner has applied for and received a Registration of the property as a short-term rental and applied for an received a Business Certificate.

1. The property owner must apply to register the property on a form provided by the Town of Cheshire and receive a Business Certificate from the Town of Cheshire.
2. The property shall follow all relevant state and local statutes, rules and regulations pertaining to health and safety.
3. The property owner shall provide, with the Registration Application, a copy of the Registration Certificate with the MA Department of Revenue for each dwelling unit they are registering.
4. A registration fee of \$100 shall be paid at the time of registration and \$100 at each annual renewal.
5. A lack of compliance with these standard or any complaint arising from the use of the property will be referred to the appropriate town department for investigation. If the property owner is found to be in violation of Performance Standard, the Short-Term Rental Registration may be revoked after a hearing with seven (7) days advance notice and may not be renewed until the property complies.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: Voter questioned how the fee got established, where the wording came from, and if it would apply to existing Short-Term Rentals? Administrator Morse stated this is standard practice across Berkshire County; a boiler plate document which would apply to all STRs registered with the State as of July 1, 2024.

Voice Vote Called

Motion Carried, Unanimous

Article 29: Uncombine Treasurer/Tax Collector position

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to MGL Chapter 4, Section 4 B and MGL Chapter 41, Section 1B to uncombine the appointed position of Treasurer/Tax Collector and have separate positions Treasurer and Collector, or take any other action in relation thereto.

(A majority vote at subsequent Town Election ballot question is required to adopt the provisions of this warrant article as it was combined by town meeting vote on June 14, 2021)

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: Voter questioned why this was being voted on again, and if it was approved to split, would it then become two full-time positions? Chair McGrath explained it could be beneficial for succession planning to hire outside sources for Treasurer services.

Voice Vote Called

Motion Carried, Majority

Article 30: Town Clerk Appointed

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

(A majority vote at subsequent Town Election ballot question is required to adopt the provisions of this warrant article. If approved, the action will take effect in May 2027, which is the end of the current Town Clerk's term.)

Motion to accept the article as presented was made and seconded.

Discussion: Input offered on both sides of the debate from voters regarding the benefit of the Town Clerk position being elected, as well as appointed.

Requested by a card vote.

Card Vote

**21 in favor, 55 opposed; Motion Rejected
Article Failed**

Moderator Francesconi entertained a motion to dissolve the meeting.

Motion was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called

Motion Carried, Unanimous

Moderator Francesconi dissolved the meeting at 9:54 PM.

A True Copy, Attest

Whitney E. Flynn
Cheshire Town Clerk
June 24, 2024

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

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

HVRSD School Committee Chair

The Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee saw students and programming continue to move towards the goals set out in the District Improvement Plan and each school's School Improvement Plans. This progress will take time, but the students and the community will be proud by what will be achieved.

The School Committee had two long-standing members leave this year. Michael Mucci (Adams) and Bethany Demarco (Cheshire) both joined the School Committee in the spring of 2018. They were both instrumental in creating a collaborative and equitable way in the District's collective bargaining process. Their input and decisions helped guide the District through COVID and helped get the students and staff "back to normal" as quickly as possible. Their service to the District and our communities comes with my utmost appreciation and gratitude. In January of 2024, Robert Tetlow was selected by the School Committee to fill the vacancy from Bethany's leaving. Bob had been a regular at the School Committee meetings for some time. His stepping in was seamless and he has been an excellent addition to the School Committee.

The School Committee took two significant steps last year. The first was to contract with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to do a full review of the District policies. This review will bring current policies up-to-date of current laws and to ensure the policies meet equity standards. The second step was to form an ad-hoc group to review the Regional Agreement. For this, the School Committee has partnered with the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS). When the Regional Agreement was last updated in 2019, it was the recommendation of MARS to review the agreement every five years. The School Committee is committed to using this schedule to ensure that the communities that the School Committee serves have a chance to make changes as needed.

The School Committee had the opportunity to see countless successes of our students from the classrooms, to their athletic feats and to their work in our communities. Our students continue to amaze and give us reasons to be proud. These successes are not possible without the dedication and hard work of our education professionals and support staff and the vision and leadership of the Administration. Just as important to that is your continued support of the District. As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child.

Respectfully submitted,
Adam Emerson
Chair
Hoosac Valley Regional
School Committee

Superintendent of Schools

The mission of the Hoosac Valley Regional School District, in partnership with families and the community, is to foster meaningful learning in a safe and supportive environment, preparing students to become creative thinkers, motivated learners, and responsible, productive members of society. Our district provides a diverse range of opportunities for students to explore their college and career interests. We are committed to continuously enhancing our programs and expanding opportunities to ensure student success, as outlined below.

Preschool Programming

This year, we secured a Commonwealth Preschool Partnership (CPPI) grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to expand preschool access for all families. This funding has enabled us to offer full-day preschool at the elementary school for the first time and to establish offsite classrooms in Adams and Cheshire. Moving forward, all families will have access to high-quality preschool education at no cost.

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. The resulting impact of this work has included the implementation of applied learning curricula and the crew culture that is driving positive change across the district.

Applied Learning

Our district is dedicated to integrating applied learning principles into our curriculum, ensuring that students engage in meaningful, real-world experiences that foster deeper understanding and skill development. Applied learning is a hands-on, interactive approach to education where students actively participate in problem-solving, collaboration, and exploration. By connecting classroom learning to real-world applications, students gain a deeper appreciation for their studies and develop essential skills for future success. This approach aligns with our Portrait of a Graduate, which defines the essential competencies we aim to cultivate in every student.

Core Features of Applied Learning:

Real-World Problem Solving: Students work on complex challenges that reflect real-world issues.

Deep Content and Skill Development: Lessons emphasize both subject knowledge and essential cognitive and non-cognitive skills.

Mastery Through Iteration: Students refine their work through persistence, feedback, and learning from failure.

Collaboration and Research: Learning encourages teamwork and seeking additional resources to solve problems effectively.

Career and College Connections: In upper grades, coursework introduces students to industry perspectives, helping them envision future academic and career paths.

To ensure effective implementation of applied learning in our schools, middle and high school building leadership teams are visiting sites across the country—thanks to grant funding from ALLI—to observe successful programs in action. These visits provide valuable insights into best practices, innovative teaching strategies, and ways to tailor applied learning to our district's unique needs. By learning from leading institutions, we have refined our approach and created meaningful, engaging educational experiences that prepare our students for success.

This focus has led us to be intentional in our curriculum selection, prioritizing programs that naturally integrate applied learning principles. Programs such as *Project Lead The Way (PLTW)*, *OpenSciEd*, and *Investigating History*, along with professional learning opportunities through *PBLWorks* and instructional strategies from *Building Thinking Classrooms*, have driven a district-wide shift in teaching and learning practices. These resources ensure that our educators have the tools to foster deeper engagement, critical thinking, and real-world problem-solving in every classroom.

Innovation Pathways

Hoosac Valley High School is dedicated to expanding educational opportunities through its Innovation Career Pathways (ICP) program, ensuring students stay engaged with hands-on, experiential learning beyond the classroom. With pathways in Arts & Entertainment, Biomedical Science & Healthcare, Business & Entrepreneurship, Education, Engineering & Technology, Environmental Studies, and Sports Medicine, Health & Wellness, students can explore fields that align with their interests while gaining exposure to new possibilities. Our IP program provides access to internships, advanced coursework, and college-level classes, equipping students with valuable skills for their future careers. This past school year, we proudly introduced Chainsaw Certification through the Game of Logging and Certified Nursing Assistant Certification for the first time. Committed to continuous growth, we are always exploring and expanding our offerings to ensure students have the tools and experiences needed for future success.

Crew Culture

At Hoosac Valley, students and teachers from grades K-12 dedicate time each day to fostering positive connections and building authentic relationships. This commitment is supported through *Responsive Classroom* at the elementary level, *Developmental Designs* at the middle school, and *Crew* at the high school. These structures provide students and staff with meaningful opportunities to engage in shared experiences that strengthen their sense of community.

At the high school, the *Crew* block is a prioritized structure designed to support students socially, emotionally, and academically. It serves as an anchor to the Hoosac Valley Regional School District (HVRSD) and reinforces the *Portrait of a Graduate* competencies. Crew takes many forms, offering students a range of interest-based activities such as gardening, bird watching, yoga, and sports discussions—including trips to college games—creating a dynamic and engaging environment for student growth.

Student Voice

In addition to Crew, high school teacher Keith Wright has spearheaded the implementation of the Student and Adult Advisory Board (SAAB) to amplify student voice at the high school. This initiative is backed by a \$10,000 grant from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation. The board has begun meeting to define its structure and set goals for fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration between students and staff to drive positive change at Hoosac.

SAAB has established three committees focused on key areas: environment and wellness, academics, and student life. Students are actively working to deepen their understanding of these issues, equipping themselves to be more effective advocates for the changes they seek. Beyond tangible outcomes, their involvement is cultivating a sense of civic engagement, empowering them with the skills and awareness needed to drive collective action and create lasting impact.

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 their second consecutive 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. During the past school year, the Hurricane Band traveled to Disney to participate in performances, clinics, and a studio recording experience!

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

At Hoosac Valley Regional School District, we are committed to ensuring that every student has the support they need to succeed. A key focus of our professional learning has been the implementation and refinement of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). This framework allows us to identify and develop access points that engage all learners—meeting students where they are and providing the necessary academic, social-emotional, and behavioral supports to help them thrive.

Through ongoing collaboration and professional development, our educators and service providers are working to strengthen instructional practices, interventions, and inclusive strategies that create equitable learning opportunities for all students. By embedding MTSS into our daily practices, we are fostering a learning environment where **every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential**.

Accountability and MCAS Results

The steps we have taken thus far have brought us closer to meeting our accountability targets. Below is a snapshot of our accountability data from the past two years. Our investment in pathways and applied learning curricula has led to **significant growth in science performance district-wide and improved overall attendance**, earning us **4 out of 4 points** in these areas. Additionally, our focus on **multi-tiered support systems** has contributed to **notable improvements in Math and ELA performance among our highest-needs students**.

2024 Progress toward improvement targets										
Indicator		All Students (Non-high school grades)			Lowest performing students (Non-high school grades)			All students (High school grades)		
		Points earned	Total possible	Weight %	Points earned	Total possible	Weight %	Points earned	Total possible	Weight %
Achievement	English language arts achievement	0	4	-	2	4	-	0	4	-
	Mathematics achievement	2	4	-	4	4	-	2	4	-
	Science achievement	4	4	-	-	-	-	3	4	-
	Achievement Total	6	12	67.5	6	8	67.5	5	12	47.5
Growth	English language arts growth	2	4	-	2	4	-	1	4	-
	Mathematics growth	2	4	-	2	4	-	2	4	-
	Growth Total	4	8	22.5	4	8	22.5	3	8	22.5
High school completion	Four-year cohort graduation rate	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-
	Extended engagement rate	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-
	Annual dropout rate	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-
	High school completion total	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-

82% of grade 10 students in Hoosac Valley passed the Math MCAS on the first attempt.

82% of grade 10 students in Hoosac Valley passed the ELA MCAS on the first attempt.

84% of grade 10 students in Hoosac Valley passed the Science MCAS on the first attempt.

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. As of the creation of this report, we are still looking for a Cheshire resident to serve on the committee.

Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee Members:

Adam Emerson, Chair, Cheshire
 Erin Milne, Vice Chair, Adams
 John F. Duval, Adams
 Fred Lora, Adams
 Andrew Przystanski, Adams
 Robert Tetlow, Cheshire
 TBD, Cheshire

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron M. Dean
 Superintendent

Hoosac Valley High School



The 24-25 school year at Hoosac Valley High School is in full swing! We are implementing seven pathways with 100% participation in grades 8 and 9, and we know that educational/career pathways are the best way to engage students and to challenge them to participate in experiential learning outside the classroom. We have the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) designation as an Innovations Pathway High School. We offer students a transformative experience that enables them to build essential skills, gain awareness of future career opportunities, and make informed decisions about post-secondary education in promising fields such as **Biomedical Science and Healthcare, Environmental Studies, Engineering and Technology, Arts and Entertainment, Education, Sports Medicine and Health and Wellness, and Business and Entrepreneurship.**

Additionally, we are giving students voice and choice in their education and the school climate and culture as part of our NEW Student and Adult Advisory Board. Better known as

SAAB, our Student and Adult Advisory Board is made up of students and HVHS staff, who are working together to bring out the best version of the school by identifying areas for improvement through conversations between interested students and adults, brainstorming, researching, and then choosing a good solution, identifying an implementation plan, and communicating results and challenges to the entire school community. Student voice changes the power dynamic in schools; school is something we are doing, rather than something that is “done.” Students are experts of their experience, and it makes sense to draw on their expertise.

As a member of the Portrait of a Graduate community in Berkshire County, HVHS has developed a vision of what students should know and be able to do as they move into college, career, and life after their PK-12 education. We share a central belief that a better and more meaningful experience is possible and that all students must be engaged in a rich education that supports their unique development. By working together, we can intentionally design our schools to meet the needs of every student to help them move confidently toward their next steps in life. As a designated pathway school, we are committed to providing students opportunities to explore careers that will prepare them for the work force and college!



Our drop/block schedule allows us the time and space to create multiple opportunities for students! Our **COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PROGRAM** offers students the chance to connect classroom learning with real-world experiences. Every semester, over forty (40) 11th and 12th graders participate in work-study, internships, or capstone projects, working with local businesses and organizations to gain practical skills and explore career pathways. We are proud to partner with a wide range of community organizations, including the Senator Paul Mark's Office, Trout Unlimited, Youth Center Inc., Berkshire Innovation Center, Red Shirt Farm, and the Adams Council on Aging, among others. These placements give students unique opportunities to make meaningful contributions while learning from professionals in their chosen fields. We are always excited to collaborate with new employers who are willing to host student interns.

In 2025, our interns in Conservation and Fisheries Management will present findings from over 18 months of data collection for the Trout in the Classroom program and local stream quality measures. Students have also worked as trail stewards on



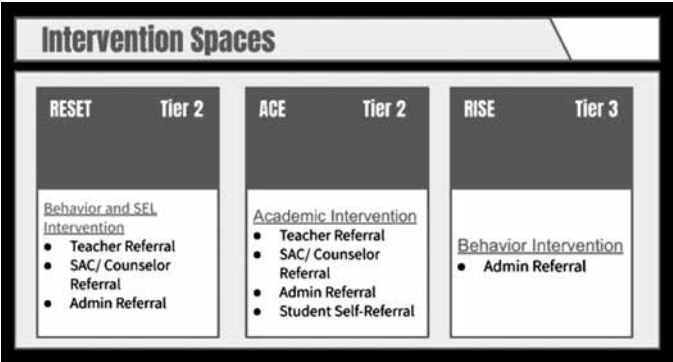
the school’s 1.5-mile nature trail, building and repairing bridges, improving drainage, and clearing the trail corridor. Last year, 18 students earned their Level 1 Chainsaw Certification, and in 2025, we will proudly graduate our first-ever class of 10 Certified Nursing Assistants through our partnership with MassHire and Integritus Healthcare.

Additionally, our program prepares students for life beyond high school through career exploration opportunities such as an annual Career Fair, immersion field trips, job shadow experiences, resume writing workshops, and mock interviews. We also offer robust academic advancement opportunities, including 11 on-site Advanced Placement courses, a dual enrollment class with MCLA, and partnerships with local colleges that allow students to participate in off-campus dual enrollment programs.

These diverse programs and experiences reflect our District’s ongoing commitment to equipping students with the skills, confidence, and connections they need for future success in college, career, and community. We are excited for what lies ahead and look forward to expanding these opportunities in the years to come.

Also NEW this year is an added focus on multi-tiered systems of support for students. Those come in the form of three new programs called ACE, RISE, and RESET.

RESET is a carefully designed environment that serves as both a proactive and responsive support system for students struggling with emotional regulation, distress, or disruptive behavior. More than just a classroom, it is a structured yet flexible space that fosters self-regulation, mindfulness, and positive reintegration into the learning environment.



Upon entering, students are welcomed into a calm, structured setting with soft lighting, neutral colors, and carefully arranged seating options that accommodate different regulation needs—bean bags, rocking chairs, and standing desks. The walls feature visual reminders of coping strategies, growth mindset affirmations, and a regulation chart that helps students identify their emotions and choose appropriate strategies for self-calming.

At the heart of the space is the Immediate Intervention Zone, where students experiencing dysregulation receive prompt, individualized support. Trained staff members recognize signs of distress early and guide students to this area, where they can access sensory tools, engage in grounding exercises, or talk through their emotions. Rather than removing students from the learning process entirely, intervention focuses on quick, effective strategies to help them regain control and return to class as soon as they are ready.

For students who need additional time and space, the De-Escalation Corner provides a designated area for safe emotional recovery. This quiet zone includes noise-canceling headphones, stress balls, weighted blankets, and guided breathing visuals. Staff use evidence-based de-escalation strategies, such as co-regulation techniques and mindfulness coaching, to support students in self-soothing and regaining focus.

Once students are ready, a structured re-entry process ensures they return to their primary classroom with a plan for success. Staff conduct a brief check-in, helping students reflect on their emotions and select strategies to support their transition. Teachers and peers understand that regulation is an ongoing process, and reintegration is approached with understanding and encouragement rather than stigma.

RISE (Restorative In-School Education) Room is a structured, supportive space designed within a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework to address student behavior through both accountability and restorative interventions. Serving as an In-School Suspension (ISS) environment, RISE provides a short-term placement (ranging from half a day to three days) where students engage in meaningful reflection and skill-building rather than simply being removed from the learning process.

The space is designed to respond to unwanted and unskilled behaviors, ensuring that consequences are paired with interventions that promote growth and prevent repeated issues. Students participate in guided restorative practices, social-emotional learning activities, and behavior coaching sessions aimed at addressing the root causes of their actions.

Additionally, the RISE Room serves as a transition space for students returning from Out-of-School Suspension (OSS), including emergency removals. This structured reintegration process helps students process their experiences, rebuild relationships, and develop the skills needed to successfully return to the classroom environment.

By blending accountability with restorative education, the RISE Room ensures that students not only understand the impact of their actions but also develop the skills necessary to make better choices in the future.

A.C.E. The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) at Hoosac Valley High School is a dedicated Tier II intervention designed to provide targeted academic support to students who need additional guidance in managing their coursework, study habits, and overall academic responsibilities. Run by a licensed teacher, ACE is a structured yet flexible space where students receive individualized assistance in areas such as study and organizational skills, time management, and assignment and project completion.

Students may be referred to ACE by faculty, staff, families, or through self-referral, using a simple form that outlines the specific areas in which they need support. Once a referral is received, a meeting is scheduled to develop a tailored plan that aligns with the student’s academic goals and needs. Some students visit ACE on a daily or weekly basis, benefiting from ongoing support, while others utilize the center as needed to stay on track with their coursework.

Beyond academic assistance, ACE fosters a culture of self-advocacy and independent learning, helping students develop the skills necessary to navigate their education with confidence. By providing structured support in a welcoming environment,

ACE empowers students to take ownership of their learning, build essential lifelong skills, and achieve greater success both in the classroom and beyond.

CLUBS AND PERKS 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 school 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 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!

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 weekly. 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. :)

HVHS Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Marching Band:

We are proud to maintain a High School Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Marching Band! Our 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 planning their trip to Walt Disney World to perform on Main Street! 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 Wednesdays.

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 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 pm to 3 pm.

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

At Hoosac Valley Middle School, we believe that education extends beyond academics. Our mission is to cultivate a learning environment where students develop the skills, character, and mindset necessary to thrive in an ever-changing world. By fostering a culture of high expectations, inclusivity, and personal growth, we prepare students not only for academic success but also for meaningful contributions to their communities.

Central to this vision is the *Portrait of a Learner*—a framework that defines the core attributes we strive to instill in every student. Through our academic programs, advisory sessions, and leadership opportunities, we ensure that students grow into capable, confident, and responsible individuals.

Connecting Hoosac Valley Middle School to the Portrait of a Learner

The *Portrait of a Learner* is a shared commitment to fostering the whole child, emphasizing personal growth and meaningful learning beyond traditional academic measures like grades and test scores. Middle schools play a critical role in shaping students into educated thinkers by integrating these principles into their daily experiences: Communicator, Global Citizen, Prepared Individual, Lifelong Learner, Critical Thinker, and Responsible Person.

For the 2024-25 school year, Hoosac Valley Middle School has focused on these key areas to support this vision:

- 1. High Standards and High Expectations for Culture** – By fostering a positive and inclusive school environment, students develop as global citizens and responsible individuals. Through advisory programs, and student leadership opportunities, students are encouraged to respect diverse perspectives, collaborate effectively, and take responsibility for their actions.
- 2. High Standards and High Expectations for Academics** – Academic excellence is at the core of developing critical thinkers and lifelong learners. Inquiry-based learning, rigorous coursework, and hands-on projects challenge students to ask questions, analyze information, and apply their knowledge in meaningful ways. Teachers emphasize real-world connections to prepare students for future academic success.
- 3. High Standards and High Expectations for Behavior** – Developing a strong sense of accountability and self-discipline helps students become prepared individuals and effective communicators. Clear expectations, restorative practices, and character education ensure that students take ownership of their choices, practice respectful communication, and develop habits that will support them in high school and beyond.

By aligning these focus areas with the *Portrait of a Learner*, Hoosac Valley Middle School ensures that students are not only meeting academic expectations but also growing into well-rounded individuals who are prepared to contribute positively to their communities and future endeavors.

High Standards and High Expectations for Culture

Advisory

The Middle School Advisory Program is a daily morning gathering designed to foster a strong sense of community, personal growth, and academic support for students. Each morning, students meet in small, teacher-led advisory groups, creating a safe and welcoming environment where they can start their day with positive interactions and guidance. The program focuses on building relationships, developing social-emotional skills, and reinforcing school values. Activities may include morning check-ins, goal setting, discussions on character development, team-building exercises, and academic support. Advisors serve as mentors, providing students with encouragement, guidance, and a trusted adult connection within the school. By meeting daily, the Advisory Program ensures that every student feels supported, heard, and prepared for the day ahead, fostering a culture of respect, responsibility, and resilience.

Hurricane Hero

All seventh graders have the opportunity to apply to become a Hurricane Hero, a leadership and service program within the school. Applications are reviewed based on teacher recommendations and the student's ability to consistently demonstrate and model all PRIDE tenets. This program allows students to engage in service-learning projects, earn special privileges during their free time, and assist as teacher helpers in lower grade levels. Additionally, Hurricane Heroes play a key role in running the CREW store, where they help fellow students exchange CREW cash for a variety of HVMS swag during both lunch periods. By participating in this program, students develop leadership skills, foster a sense of community, and contribute positively to the school environment.

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 host a STEAM Night for all students. The last event of the school year will be the Showcase for Learning, 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.

High Standards and High Expectations for Behavior

HVMS uses a Multi-Tiered Behavior Support System (MTSS), providing structured emotional and behavioral support to help students develop self-regulation skills, improve behavior, and achieve academic success. For students who need additional support, the RESET Room offers a temporary, structured space where they can de-escalate, reflect, and receive targeted interventions. Trained staff guide students in identifying triggers, developing coping strategies, and setting goals before they return to class. Ongoing support, such as small-group sessions and individual check-ins, ensures continued progress. More than just a break

from the classroom, the RESET Room is a restorative space designed to teach students how to manage emotions, make positive choices, and successfully reintegrate into the learning environment. By fostering self-awareness and emotional growth, the RESET Room helps create an inclusive school culture where all students can thrive.

High Standards and High Expectation for Academics

The administrative team prioritizes academic excellence by implementing key strategies with teacher teams and integrating professional development. The Assistant Principal of Teaching and Learning collaborates with grade-level content teachers to analyze data, identify students of concern, and adjust lesson plans to better support student needs.

Beyond curriculum meetings, the administrative team regularly convenes with each grade level to discuss students who may be struggling, assessing whether challenges stem from academic or behavioral factors. When concerns persist, students are further reviewed by the Building-Based Team to determine appropriate support strategies. Additionally, we have established partnerships with external academic consultants, which are detailed later in this report.

HVMS High Quality Instruction Materials:

- Wit & Wisdom is a comprehensive English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum grounded in the belief that literature, history, art, and science all play a vital role in literacy instruction. By integrating these subjects, the program helps students develop deep content knowledge and a broader understanding of the world. The curriculum consists of four 30-lesson modules per grade, each centered around a specific theme. Every module begins with an art analysis, providing a unique entry point into literacy. Through the use of authentic texts, students strengthen essential reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills while also developing their grammar and vocabulary. This approach ensures that students engage with meaningful content, fostering critical thinking and a deeper appreciation for interdisciplinary learning.
- Into Literature is a comprehensive English Language Arts (ELA) program designed to foster student-centered learning by integrating all domains of literacy. The program not only enhances reading and writing skills but also promotes social-emotional learning, encouraging students to develop a positive self-concept, agency, and a growth mindset for academic success. Grounded in research-based principles, HMH Into Literature features rigorous content and a diverse selection of texts that support in-depth genre study. Through a gradual release approach, students build independence in textual analysis, learn to cite evidence effectively, and apply insights from mentor texts to strengthen their own writing. By combining critical thinking, literary exploration, and skill development, Into Literature empowers students to become confident and proficient readers, writers, and communicators.
- 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.

- In spring 2024, we assembled a math curriculum council who began the process of evaluating our current state of math teaching and learning in the district. Throughout the duration of the school year and into fall 2025 the team researched and field tested a new math curriculum with the intent of finding one that was a match for our context, our students, and our instructional vision for mathematics.
- OpenSciEd: The science curriculum at HVMS is designed to provide all students with meaningful opportunities to develop deep and lasting content knowledge. Aligned with the Next Generation Science and Engineering Standards and Practices, instruction is driven by a **phenomena-based discovery** approach that encourages curiosity and engagement. Science instruction at HVMS emphasizes **student-led questioning, investigation, and problem-solving** of authentic, real-world challenges. Through hands-on exploration and critical thinking, students actively construct their understanding of scientific concepts while developing essential skills for future learning and innovation.
- Investing History (Pilot): The middle school history curriculum, curated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, is designed to be student-centered and academically rigorous. It deepens students' **analytical skills**, fosters **historical curiosity**, and encourages **informed civic engagement** through applied learning experiences. By examining diverse perspectives, analyzing primary and secondary sources, and engaging in meaningful discussions, students develop a deeper understanding of history and its relevance to the present. This approach empowers them to think critically, make connections, and become active, informed citizens.

Exploratories

All students grades four through seven cycle through seven different exploratories: Project Lead the Way, Music, Physical Education, Technology, Spanish, Arts and Entertainment, 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.

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 HMVS staff to explore and utilize.

Enrollment Data				
Hoosac Valley Middle School	4	5	6	7
2024-2025	64	90	72	78
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

Hoosac Valley Elementary School

You will succeed. We will not give up on you.

Hoosac Valley Elementary School is a school that believes “you will succeed. We will not give up on you.” All 400+ students, preschool through third grade, and the nearly 100 staff members hear this message on a daily basis and carry it throughout their work. The school is located in downtown Adams on Commercial Street. The information included in this report highlights some of the statistical information, reviews some initiatives and tells about current instructional information. The staff continues to put the needs of students first and create an educational environment that boasts a joy of learning.

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!

Please see the enrollment numbers below.

Enrollment Comparisons:										
Grade	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
PK			56	70	68	34	58	66	65	82
K	68	65	83	75	90	75	87	75	72	74
1	78	68	80	77	85	86	67	100	76	75
2	80	81	78	76	77	73	87	66	103	84
3	84	80	104	77	80	71	64	91	63	93
4	71	80								
5	72	68								
Total	453	442	401	375	400	339	363	398	379	408

HVES Curricula:

At the elementary school, we are in our fourth year of implementing three English Language Arts’ programs: Heggerty, Foundations and Wit and Wisdom. In math, we continue to implement Eureka Math. This year, our preschool started implementing the Boston Focus on Preschool reading program. All of these programs are evidence and research-based programs that support the needs of our students.

- **Boston Focus on Preschool:** Students in PreK 4 and PreK 3 learn through Boston’s Focus on PreK curriculum in various units of study. Each unit is structured around the MA Learning Standards in ELA, Social Studies, and Science and Engineering. Through texts, Centers activities, and other experiences, children build understandings and vocabulary relevant to the topic. Focus on PreK offers opportunities to create and share stories, learn through play, and develop key foundational skills children need for early literacy.

- **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 - Continued

This year, our school continued to receive funding from the Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) grant. This grant, which partners with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, has allowed us to open two additional full-day preschool classrooms, totaling 3. 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 again this year is the Ign!te Reading grant, which is based on the Science of Reading. Forty-five first graders and thirteen second graders are taking part in the grant this year to 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 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 and providing transportation or resources for field trips. They also help provide traditional events like the Give a Gift Shop each winter.

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. As a school community, we genuinely believe that every community member can and will succeed. We work together to support each other in finding that success.

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

Department of Student Services

Annual Report 2024-2025

Hoosac Valley Regional Student Services Department provides new opportunities and essential programming for our students in Special Education, English Language Education, and Early Childhood Education. During the 2024-2025 school year, we provided support to approximately 280 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. 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. The increasing number of students requiring mental health and social emotional support have resulted in HVRSD seeking outside partnerships with agencies such as Optimal Healing, Berkshire Applied Behavior Analysis, Northern Berkshire Community Coalition 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.

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 and responding to intervention using a very individualized approach. In addition to the use of accommodation plans, we continue to have success with our Building Based Team (BBT) structure 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.

Our integrated preschool programming continues to thrive and expand at Hoosac Valley Elementary School and its community partners. As one of only two districts across Massachusetts, HVRSD has been awarded an expansion grant from the Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) Planning Grant with which we have been able to expand from one full-day preschool program at HVES to three full-day classrooms for 4-year-olds at HVE. The grant also allowed all our CPPI programs to align curriculum resources and adopt Boston Focus for PreK literacy materials. We work closely with EEC licensed community partners, the Youth Center in Cheshire, and Magic Seasons in Adams, to continue 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 if needed within the district to HVES and the ability to hire itinerant speech and language, Registered Behavior Technicians, Special Education coaching, and occupational therapy services for students placed with community partners. 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 also offer half day programming to three-year-olds identified with special needs in appointment-based therapy at HVE, at community partners, or in an integrated HVE classroom. 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. Our CPPI preschools have also aligned professional development with the Growing Literacy Equity Across Massachusetts (GLEAM). Dr. Sharon Ryan from the Hill for Literacy, has provided Science of Reading training for all preschool staff over the past two years and provided coaching and modeling with our new curriculum in all of the CPPI settings. The CPPI team is also working with EEC to pilot the Transition to Kindergarten Toolkit and professional development to smooth the transition to Kindergarten for students and families.

The English Language Education program has continued to expand as new multilingual learners join our Hoosac Valley community. Partnerships with local Berkshire County interpreters as well as Lexikeet Translation Services have allowed the HVRSD to improve family outreach and engagement. Our ESL teacher provides direct classroom instruction to our English Learner (EL) students and collaborates with classroom teachers, administrators, and families. This collaboration aims to ensure we are providing our EL students the most effective educational experience and access to high quality curriculum materials. Our goals moving into the 2025-2026 school year are to first, continue offering teacher training in the area of Sheltered English Instruction, and additionally, to continue building meaningful relationships with our EL families and the greater Multilingual community. Ultimately, these goals will help the HVRSD 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 student strengths and needs, including all stakeholders in the 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 in person or via zoom. 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 2025-2026 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 collaborative IEP goals, and create more opportunities to provide social emotional support for our students and their families.

HVRSD Special Education 2024-2025 Data:				
District	1013	total / 260	Special Education	26%
HVES Prek-3	404	total / 116	Special Education	29%
HVMS 4-7	305	total / 67	Special Education	22%
HVHS 8-12	304	total / 77	Special Education	25%

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Zanin
 Director of Student Services
 Hoosac Valley Regional School District

Hoosac Valley Athletics Report

2024-25

Department Overview:

Hoosac Valley has continued to experience a great deal of success during the 2024-25 academic year. Our programs continue to remain competitive within the PVIAC as the conference continues to evolve. Many of our programs continue to thrive within the Western Mass tournaments and also are qualifying for the MIAA Championships as well.

Fall Programs:

During the fall of 2024, 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 Division VIII tournament before falling to eventual champion West Boylston. In Girls Soccer, we brought on a new coach, Lindsey McGinnis, and they experienced a nice run within the WMass tournament and qualified for the State tournament as well. The remaining programs for the Fall experienced some challenges, especially with numbers. The Boys Soccer program hired a new coach in Blair Mahar. He did increase our roster numbers late, but it was a challenge early on with Varsity caliber players. The Boys Soccer team did qualify for the State Tournament again this fall.

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 2024. These programs need to be fully evaluated for their viability moving forward. The department wants to provide opportunities but also value/experience to our student athletes.

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 wrapping up their regular seasons. The Girls Basketball team likely will be the top seed within the state for the MIAA Division V tournament. They will have an excellent chance to repeat as both Western Mass and State Champions in 2025.

On the boys side, they will have be a top three seed in the Western Mass tournament and also will qualify for the State Tournament. Although their ceiling may not be as high as in previous years, they are still providing very competitive opportunities for the students.

The Nordic Skiing program only has one student 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. Their regular seasons are ongoing and our students will have an opportunity to compete in the postseason at both cooperative schools.

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
Baseball - Cooperative agreement with Drury
Softball
Track and Field - HOST but will co-op with Drury
and McCann in boys and girls

Participation in all our programs continues to be a concern. As you can see above, many of these programs can't survive without a cooperative partner. Softball is currently our only spring offering that doesn't require a co-op.

Following the 24-25 academic year, it is my intention to review all of our offerings and devise a long range strategic plan for the District. This will involve student interest groups, evaluating cooperative opportunities, and providing students with the opportunity to be successful. Some of the potential outcomes could include the addition/subtraction of programs, new leadership of some sports, and a hard look at finances as well.

Director of Food Services

2024 - 2025

In 2024-2025, 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 & 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, and paper products yearly on a county-wide basis.

Our school district has received free meals, breakfast and lunch, for the past six years through a program called CEP (Community Eligibility Program). We will continue to have free meals through CEP, and the Universal Free Meals program that was approved for funding by the State Legislature in August 2023.

Participation in the reimbursable National School Lunch Program for SY 24-25 was 85%. Participation in the School Breakfast Program for SY 24-25 was 69%. These totals reflect participation from September 3, 2024 to January 31, 2025.

So far, for the 2024-2025 SY, the Food Service Department has a deficit of \$36,937.00 on Revenues of \$769,681.00. Government subsidies represented 94.4% of total Revenues. USDA Commodities valued at \$44,024.36 were received so far in SY 24-25.

The percentage of students who qualified for free/reduced meals as of January 31, 2025 was 59%.

We are operating 2 kitchens in SY 24 - 25.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne Schutz
Food Service Director

Business Administrator

Overview of Fiscal Year 2024

The Hoosac Valley Regional School District's School Committee and Town members approved a Fiscal Year 2024 budget of \$21,385,195. This represented an increase of \$759,756 or 3.7% over the previous fiscal year's budget. The FY 2024 budget was an important stepping stone for the District as we had finally met qualifying thresholds that made the District eligible for a Chapter 70 increase beyond the hold harmless amount as we had seen in previous years. Meeting these thresholds equated to an increase in Chapter 70 of \$807,327. This, along with the use of COVID-19 related grants such as ESSER funding and the implementation of full day Pre-K through the CPPI grant allowed the District to not only maintain important positions and initiatives but incorporate additional positions that are necessary to move the district forward without largely impacting assessments to the towns.

The 2024 fiscal year began with a fund balance of \$1,056,146 as certified by the Department of Revenue and ended the year with a certified E&D of \$1,123,255 to start fiscal year 2025. 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 FY25 (\$245,000) is deducted. The District increased the use of E&D for FY25 in order to complete building repair capital projects without impacting town assessments.

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. 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 also received a IVAQ grant which focused on improving ventilation and air quality in the buildings. This has allowed the District to tackle some pre-existing HVAC issues to improve efficiency and effectiveness of our schools heating and ventilation systems at no cost to the district. As we prepare for the future we continue to be mindful that these COVID related grant funds will not be available for fiscal year 2025 and will continue to utilize them for one time purchases, building maintenance and professional development to supplement our current practices in FY 2024.

In closing, the FY 2024 budget was one that maintained a focus on moving forward with initiatives put in place in prior years, to grow pathways in the high school, to educate the whole student and all students equally, and to expand Pre-K services not only in our elementary school but throughout our community. Challenges will surely lie ahead as ESSER funds phase out, but the District Administration continues to maintain the mission of giving all of our students the best education possible as the guiding force in decision making and budget building for the fiscal years to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Erika M. Snyder
Business Administrator
February 28, 2025

Hoosac Valley Regional School District

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances

Governmental Funds for the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	General Fund	School Choice Fund	Non-major Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Assessments to member towns	\$,475,417	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,475,417
Charges for services	-	-	319,235	319,235
Intergovernmental	11,579,875	195,222	5,488,466	17,263,563
MTRS on-behalf payments	2,175,388	-	-	2,175,388
Investment income	85,122	-	-	85,122
Other revenues	49,583	-	3,406	52,989
TOTAL REVENUES	23,365,385	195,222	5,811,107	29,371,714
EXPENDITURES				
Administration	971,352	-	15,000	986,352
Instruction	7,414,772	-	2,094,341	9,509,113
Other school services	1,457,064	-	1,711,898	3,168,962
Operation and maintenance	1,394,317	-	799,445	2,193,762
Fixed charges	200,160	-	-	200,160
Special education	2,839,714	-	563,475	3,403,189
Intergovernmental	2,235,934	-	-	2,235,934
Employee benefits	4,048,119	-	-	4,048,119
MTRS on-behalf payments	2,175,388	-	-	2,175,388
Debt service:				
Principal retirement	635,000	-	-	635,000
Interest	250,150	-	-	250,150
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	23,621,970	-	5,184,159	28,806,129
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(256,585)	195,222	626,948	565,585
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (uses)				
Transfers in	344,959	-	-	344,959
Transfers out	-	-	(344,959)	(344,959)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (uses)	-	344,959	(344,959)	-
Net change in fund balances	88,374	195,222	281,989	565,585
FUND BALANCES, beginning	1,411,945	734,522	1,481,994	3,628,461
FUND BALANCES, ending	\$ 1,500,319	\$ 929,744	\$ 1,763,983	\$ 4,194,046

Hoosac Valley Regional School District

Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds, June 30, 2024

	General Fund	School Choice Fund	Non-major Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,353,440	\$ 929,744	\$ 1,419,995	\$ 3,703,179
Short-term investments	1,052,654	-	-	1,052,654
Intergovernmental receivables	-	-	1,013,978	1,013,978
Other receivables	1,061	-	1,783	2,844
Interfund receivables	441,057	-	-	441,057
Inventory	-	-	32,264	32,264
TOTAL ASSETS	2,848,212	929,744	2,468,020	6,245,976
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	197,973	-	143,510	341,483
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	1,149,920	-	119,470	1,269,390
Interfund payables	-	-	441,057	441,057
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,347,893	-	704,037	2,051,930
FUND BALANCES				
Nonspendable	-	-	32,264	32,264
Restricted	-	929,744	1,731,719	2,661,463
Assigned	377,059	-	-	377,059
Unassigned	1,123,260	-	-	1,123,260
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	1,500,319	929,744	1,763,983	\$ 4,194,046
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 2,848,212	\$ 929,744	\$ 2,468,020	

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:

Lease payable and related asset is not reported in the funds.	\$ (9,613)
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	31,743,960
Long-term bonds and capital lease payables are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore are not reported in the funds.	(6,780,000)
Accumulated unused compensated absences	(303,971)
Net pension liability and related deferred outflows and inflows or resources	(6,634,660)
Other postemployment benefits liability and related deferred outflows and inflows or resources	(45,794,710)

NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	\$ (23,584,948)
---	-----------------

Hoosac Valley Regional School District Assessments to Member Towns, June 30, 2024

Operating and capital costs are apportioned on the basis of the respective pupil enrollments in the school as defined in the Regional School Agreement as well as in accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Education Reform Act (minimum local contribution).

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the operating and capital assessments are as follows:

	Adams	Cheshire	Total
Operating	\$ 5,375,874	\$ 2,625,694	\$ 8,001,568
Transportation	468,030	133,032	601,062
Capital and debt	683,051	189,736	872,787
Total assessment	\$ 6,526,955	\$ 2,948,462	\$ 9,475,417

The operating and capital assessment was apportioned to each member Town as follows:

	Adams	Cheshire	Total
State required minimum local contribution	\$ 3,947,597	\$ 2,219,727	\$ 6,167,324
Assessment apportioned in accordance with the regional school agreement	2,579,358	728,735	3,308,093
Total assessment	\$ 6,526,955	\$ 2,948,462	\$ 9,475,417

Hoosac Valley Regional School District Future Debt Service, June 30, 2024

Annual debt service requirements to maturity for general obligation bonds are as follows:

Year Ending June 30,	Principal	Governmental Activities Interest	Total
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	750,000	137,500	887,500
2030 - 2033	3,280,000	284,600	3,564,600
Total	\$ 6,780,000	\$ 1,210,450	\$ 7,990,450

Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District

McCann Technical School 2024 Annual Report



The Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District, McCann Technical School, students, faculty, and staff continued their record of noteworthy accomplishments in fiscal year 2024 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 have added a new vocational training program, HVAC/R Technician. The construction of a new 5,800 square foot training facility was completed in May of 2024. The project was funded by a \$3,110,000.00 Skills Capital Grant. 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 2024 was the twentieth class in a row to attain 100 percent competency determination as designated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). 109 graduates of the class of 2024 saw 60% continue their education in a variety of colleges and universities, 38% enter the workforce, and 2% proudly enter into military service. In 2024 we once again held our commencement exercises at MCLA with 109 graduates and a full campus center audience.

GRADE 10 – ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS				
Performance Level	2021	2022	2023	2024
Exceeding Expectations	9%	4%	6%	9%
Passing	82%	94%	88%	83%
Not Meeting Expectations	9%	2%	6%	8%

GRADE 10 – MATHEMATICS				
Performance Level	2021	2022	2023	2024
Exceeding Expectations	2%	0%	1%	3%
Passing	83%	94%	91%	93%
Not Meeting Expectations	15%	6%	8%	4%

GRADE 10 – SCIENCE AND TECH/ENG				
Performance Level	2021	2022	2023	2024
Exceeding Expectations	NA	14%	7%	10%
Passing	NA	49%	87%	84%
Not Meeting Expectations	NA	32%	6%	6%

There were no MCAS tests in 2020 and no science and tech/Eng MCAS in 2021.

The 2023-2024 athletic calendar featured a number of successful accomplishments for our teams who represented the school well. The baseball team won the Western Mass. Championship that served as the culmination of a positive athletic year.

In the fall of 2023 McCann hosted an accreditation team from the Council on Occupational Education. The visiting team reviewed our programs and we received the maximum of six years continued accreditation. Similarly we hosted an accreditation team from the Commission on Dental Accreditation for our dental assisting program and received numerous plaudits and continued accreditation for seven years. The results of these two accreditation visits is a testament to our faculty, students, alumni and employers.

Our continuous facility improvement program allowed us to complete the furnishing and equipping of the new HVAC/R facility, renovate our business technology laboratory, our front entranceway, and several improvements in the gymnasium.

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 replaced approximately 155 computer systems, both desktop and laptops,

to ensure all systems are Microsoft Windows 11 compliant. We installed 6 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 2024 SkillsUSA district competition was held virtually at McCann in accordance with the school's policies and the SkillsUSA guidance. McCann students earned eighteen gold medals in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Additive Manufacturing, Automated Manufacturing Technology, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Dental Assisting, Information Technology Services, Medical Assisting, Restaurant Service, Sheet Metal, Technical Computer Applications, Technical Drafting, and Web Design. Fifteen silver medals were awarded in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Additive Manufacturing, Architectural Drafting, Carpentry, Customer Service, Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting, Sheet Metal, Technical Computer Applications, Technical Drafting, Web Design, and Welding. Seventeen bronze medals were also earned in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Automated Manufacturing Technology, Automotive Service Technology, Carpentry, CNC 3 Axis Milling Programmer, Dental Assisting, Electrical Construction Wiring, Industrial Motor Control, Medical Assistant, Sheet Metal, Technical Computer Applications, Web Design, and Welding. The 2024 SkillsUSA state competition was held in Marlborough, MA. McCann students earned two gold medals in Technical Drafting and Dental Assisting. Four silver medals were awarded in Automated Manufacturing Technology and Dental Assisting. Three bronze medals were also earned in 3-D Visualization and Animation and Carpentry. The gold medal winners advanced to the National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta, GA in June. McCann earned a gold medal in Dental Assisting. 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 application of the skills learned at school. BPA is contributing to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills.

At the 2024 BPA State Leadership Conference (SLC) in March, McCann BPA members earned two 2nd place, one 3rd place, two 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. Four students traveled to Chicago, IL 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 2023-2024 school year there were fifty-four seniors placed in co-op positions with thirty-seven of our cooperative education industry partners. The senior placement rate was 50% of the senior class during this time period. The junior placement from March-June was thirty-five placements with eighteen of our cooperative education industry partners. The junior placement rate was 27% 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 five culinary arts seniors achieved the American Culinary Federation Certified Fundamental Cook Certifications and four of our seniors achieved the ServSafe manager certification. All seniors also achieved their Massachusetts Food Allergy Certification. All eight of our freshmen students for the first time achieved the ServSafe Food Handler Certification and all sophomores achieved their 10-hour OSHA certification.

Fifty-one of the business technology students earned their certifications in a number of Microsoft Office programs including Access Expert, Excel, PowerPoint, Word, and Word Expert.

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. 16 of our underclassmen received level 1 certification and 12 of our upperclassmen received level 2 certification which includes the Massachusetts Department of Labor pre-apprentice status.

Our computer assisted design drafting students were similarly successful in a variety of certifications as follows:

- Certiport Autodesk Certified User certifications: AutoCAD 16, Revit 12, Maya 1, Fusion 360 5.
- OnShape Certifications: Certified OnShape Associate 3, Certified OnShape Professional 1.

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.

Two metal fabrication seniors received a total of five welding certifications in various processes and positions and two junior students qualified for three 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 \$82,740.00 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 79 electricians completing modules in 2023-2024. We also had 28 complete the Master Electrician course.

James J. Brosnan
Superintendent

Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District

FY24 Budgeted Revenues		Budget	Actual
City & Town Assessments			
Municipal Minimum		\$ 3,758,739.00	\$ 3,758,739.00
Capital		18,260.00	18,260.00
Transportation		181,691.00	181,691.00
Municipal Assessment		112,490.00	112,490.00
Ch. 71 Transportation		336,288.00	419,028.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid		6,841,032.00	6,841,032.00
Tuition		235,702.00	235,702.00
Miscellaneous Revenue		14,864.00	14,864.00
Total Revenue Received		10,656,491.00	11,581,806.00
Member City & Town Transportation Refunds			(\$82,740.00)
		\$ 11,499,066.00	\$ 11,499,066.00
Source	Grant	Amount	
(Federal Entitlement)			
Federal	Sped IDEA	\$	165,182.42
Federal	Title I		144,016.19
Federal	Title II A		15,422.00
Federal	Title IV		11,578.00
Federal	Perkins		68,516.00
Federal	Perkins Improvement & Equipment		23,600.00
Federal	Perkins Postsecondary Reserve		5,263.00
Federal	ESSER III		363,715.00
(Federal Grants Other)			
REAP			68,457.00
(State Grants)			
MyCap			6,492.00
Workforce Skills Capital			3,110,000.00
MassHire Berkshire: Connecting Activities			2,000.00
MassHire Berkshire: College & Career			5,981.19
MassStep Culinary Arts NAPS			71,017.43
(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		39,812.00
Private	Linwood Rhodes		7,000.00
Private	Culinary Arts – Heidi Moulton		2,000.00
Private	Gene Haas Foundation (AMT)		18,000.00
TOTAL GRANTS			\$ 4,138,052.23

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Cheshire Water Department
2024 Consumer Confidence Report

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CURRENT EVENTS

MAY 27

Board of
Selectmen Meeting

6:30 PM - 6:30 PM

MAY 28

BCRS

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

MAY 30

Voter Registration
Session

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

JUN 03

PUBLIC HEARING -
MassDOT Project
#609468 - District
1 - ADA Retrofits at
Various Locations

JUN 07

Hoosac Lake
Recreation/Preservation
District Annual
Meeting

1:00 PM - 1:00 PM

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

Quick Links
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Forms & Permits
Online Payments

Weather

66.1 °F



Min: 48 °F
Max: 79 °F

Cheshire, MA 01225 Weather

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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.

