TOWN of Cheshire

MASSACHUSETTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Federal, State and County Officials

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

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1550 Main St., Suite 406 - Springfield, MA 01103
Website: Warren.senate.gov
Facebook: facebook.com/senatorelizabethwarren - Twitter: @ElizabethforMA, @SenWarren

Edward J. Markey
218 Russell Senate Office Building - Washington, DC 20510
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Springfield Office: Springfield Federal Building
1550 Main St., 4th Floor - Springfield, MA 01103-1427
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website: http://markey.senate.gov
Facebook: facebook.com/EdJMarkey - Twitter: @SenMarkey

Massachusetts Representative In Congress
Richard Neal
2208 Rayburn House Office Building - Washington, DC 20515
1-202-225-5601

Pittsfield Office: Federal Building
78 Center Street - Pittsfield, MA 01201
442-0946 - website: http://neal.house.gov
Facebook: facebook.com/Congressman-Richard-Neal-325642654132598/ - Twitter: @RepRichardNeal

Governor of Massachusetts
Maura Healey
Office of the Governor
The State House, Room 280 - Boston, MA 02133
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Members of the Massachusetts General Court
Senator Paul Mark
773 Tyler St. - Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-464-5635
Email: paul.mark@masenate.gov - website: https://SenatorPaulMark.com
Boston Office: State House, 24 Beacon St., Room 504 - Boston, MA 02133
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Representative
John Barrett III
District Contact: Adams Town Hall, 8 Park Street - Adams, MA 01220
1-413-743-8300
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Email: john.barrett@mahouse.gov

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

Cover - The refurbished Cheshire Cheese Press monument
Back Cover - The Cheese Wheel located on Church Street at the Ashuwillticook Trail
Photos by Eugene Michalenko.

Town of CHESHIRE

MASSACHUSETTS

Annual Report 2025

Adams Specialty & Printing Co. - Adams, MA 01220

Dedication

This year's Annual Town Report is dedicated to

Rev. William "Bill" Furey

August 6, 1947 - February 1, 2025

William "Bill" Furey was a lifelong resident of Cheshire, a town he loved deeply and proudly called home. A product of our community's schools, he attended Cheshire Elementary School and graduated from Pittsfield High School with the Class of 1966. From an early age, Bill's life was defined by service — to his country, his faith, and his neighbors.

In 1968, Bill enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served as a Senior Corpsman attached to the United States Marine Corps in Vietnam from 1969-1970. He cared for his fellow service members with courage and compassion under some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable. Bill was honorably discharged in 1979 and received several commendations in recognition of his dedicated and distinguished service to our nation.

Upon returning home, Bill worked for General Electric in Pittsfield for 20 years, from 1970-1990. Even while working full time, he found ways to serve his hometown. He was a member of the Cheshire Board of Health from 1972-1976, contributing to the well-being of residents and helping guide important public health decisions.

Bill's life of faith was equally central to who he was. An ordained Baptist minister, he served as Pastor of the Cheshire Baptist Church from 1974 until 1998, offering spiritual guidance, comfort, and support to countless families over the years. At the same time, he ministered at the Berkshire Union Chapel from 1974 until 2025, extending his care and counsel well beyond the borders of Cheshire.

His dedication to veterans and their families was another hallmark of his service. From 2002 - 2012, Bill served as Cheshire's Veterans Agent, advocating for those who had worn the nation's uniform and ensuring that local veterans received the support, respect, and resources they deserved.

In 2005, Bill extended his mission of compassion far beyond our town and our country. He began traveling to Burkina Faso in West Africa, escorting young children with serious medical conditions to the United States so they could receive critical care not available to them at home. Over the years, he made approximately ten trips, personally accompanying children in need to life-saving medical and surgical procedures. To continue and expand this work, Bill founded African Integrity Missions, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to serving communities in West Africa with dignity and love.

Bill's life was one of quiet courage, steady faith, and unwavering commitment to others. He served Cheshire as a neighbor, a minister, a public servant, a veterans' advocate, and a global humanitarian. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched here in town and in places far beyond our borders.

With deep gratitude and respect, the Town of Cheshire dedicates this Annual Town Report to the memory of William "Bill" Furey, in recognition of his lifelong service, his enduring kindness, and his extraordinary contributions to our community and our world.

William D. Furey, "Bill," was a life-long resident of Cheshire.

As a youth, playing baseball was a constant neighborhood pastime, as well as winter skating.

Some mischievous behaviors led him to be redirected to Pittsfield High School, class of '66. There, he would say, he became the "little fish" in the big pond.

After high school, Bill enlisted in the US Navy as a Corpsman (Medic). In 1968 he was sent to Vietnam where he proudly served his country. When he returned home to Cheshire he married and raised his family.

In the 80s, Bill served the Town of Cheshire in the Health Department, and in 2007 as a Veterans Service Agent.

Bill served Cheshire in a spiritual capacity for the majority of his life. In 1975 he accepted an invitation to preach a Sunday sermon at the Cheshire Baptist Church where he was a member. The congregation was in-between pastors and the Board of Deacons and church members asked Bill if he would like to preach a sermon. One sermon led to many and several years later in 1982, he was ordained as a Baptist Minister. He pastored the Cheshire Baptist Church for 25 years and the Berkshire Union Chapel for another 25 years.

Bill's service to his community reached beyond just the physical Cheshire. Bill's Christian Ministry was his calling. He extended his ministry to funeral home services for families who didn't have a church affiliation, yet wanted a minister to lead the service. His calling was to comfort, to care, in times of sorrow. His comforting presence as a minister was his strength. His smile made you feel comfortable. His pranks made you feel at ease. His knowledge of Scripture was inspiring. If you had scripture or biblical questions, Bill led you to your answer. Always with encouragement. He wanted you to come to know your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Bill was proud to live here in Cheshire for 77 years and be a part of its history.

Until we meet again in Eternity.

Town Elected Officials

Office	Name	Term
Selectmen		
	Raymond Killeen	2027
	Shawn McGrath	2027
	Michelle Francesconi	2028
	Ronald DeAngelis	2028
	Jason Levesque	2026
Moderator		
	Carol Francesconi	2028
Board of Assessors		
	Kelly Lahey	2027
	Nancy Delorey *(Resigned)*	2025
	Barbara Astorino	2026
	Fred Hobart *(Appointed for 1 year to fill term through next annual election)*	2026
Board of Health		
	Brian Trudeau	2027
	C.J. Garner	2028
	Michael Kruszyna	2026
Water Commissioners		
	Rickey Gurney	2027
	Stephen LaFogg *(Resigned)*	2025
	Colin Haas	2026
	James Zepka	2028
Cemetery Commissioners		
	Marcus Lyon	2028
	Richard Francesconi *(Retired)*	2025
	Timothy Garner	2027
	Stephen LaFogg	2026
Town Clerk		
	Whitney E. Flynn	2027

Office	Name	Term
Constables		
	C.J. Garner	2028
	Timothy Garner	2028
	Alison Warner	2028
Planning Board		
	Peter Traub	2029
	Aaron Singer *(Resigned)*	2025
	Daniel Skorcz	2026
	Francis Griswold	2027
	Amy McCarthy	2028
	Arthur Kaufman	2030
Hoosac Valley Regional School District School Committee from Cheshire		
	Michael Henault *(Resigned)*	2025
	Adam Emerson	2026
	Tracy Tierney *(Appointed)*	2028
	Robert Tetlow	2027
Hoosac Valley Regional School District School Committee from Adams		
	Fred Lora	2027
	Andrew Przystanski *(Resigned in 2025)*	2026
	Jennifer Solak *(Appointed)*	2026
	Erin Milne	2028
	John Duval	2028
Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District School Committee Member from Cheshire		
	William Craig	2028

Town Appointments

Appointment	*Name*	*Term*
Town Administrator **Chief Procurement Officer** **ADA Compliance Officer** **Hearing Officer**	Jennifer Morse	***Yearly***
Treasurer/Collector **Tax Title Custodian**	Rebecca Herzog *(Retired March 2024)*	***Yearly***
Temporary Treasurer **Tax Title Custodian**	Benjamin Gelb	***Yearly***
Assistant Treaurer/Collector	Whitney Flynn *(Resigned May 2024)*	***Yearly***
Accountant	Hilltown Accounting David Fierro	***Yearly***
Town Counsel	Donna MacNicol	***Yearly***
Special Town Counsel	Tallerman, Costa, Mead	***Yearly***
Building Commissioner **Zoning Enforcement Officer**	Brian Duval	***Yearly***
Asst. Building Commissioner	Rick Reed	***Yearly***
Wiring Inspector	George Sweet	***Yearly***
Asst. Wiring Inspector	Leslie Rhinemiller	***Yearly***

Appointment	*Name*	*Term*
Plumbing/Gas Inspector	Michael Biros	***Yearly***
Asst. Plumbing/Gas Inspector	John Burzimati (Resigned)	***Yearly***
Fence Viewer	VACANT VACANT VACANT	***Yearly*** ***Yearly*** ***Yearly***
Director of Public Works **Tree Warden** **Keeper of the Flags**	Corey McGrath	***Yearly***
Highway Foreman **Emergency Management Director** **Tree Warden**	Corey Swistak	***Yearly***
Emergency Management Asst.	Shawn McGrath	***Yearly***
Animal Control Officer	Kim Witek	Yearly
Animal Inspector	VACANT	***Yearly***
Keeper of the Pound	VACANT	***Yearly***
Director of Veteran's Services **Veteran Burial Agent**	Stephen Roy *(Resigned)*	***Yearly***
Right To Know Co-ordinator	VACANT	***Yearly***

Appointment	*Name*	*Term*
Farm Commission		***3 Year Appointments***
	Michael Balawender	2026
	Kim Martin	2027
	Eric Whitney	2025
	Joseph Wrenn	2025
	Jason Turner	2026
	Jacob Zieminski	2027
Greylock Advisory Board - Cheshire Representative		
	Gary Trudeau	***Yearly***
Vocational School Program		
	VACANT	***Yearly***
Representatives Arts Lottery Council		
Northern Berkshire Arts Council		***Two Year Appointments 2 Terms Only***
	Arthur Kaufman	2026
	Becky Ahamad	2025
Recreation Committee		
	Robin Poirot	***Yearly***
	Timothy Garner	***Yearly***
	Corey McGrath	***Yearly***
	Christopher Garner	***Yearly***
	Liseann Karandisecky	***Yearly***
	Cheryl McGuire, *Alternate*	***Yearly***
Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management		
	Michael Kruszyna, *Delegate*	***Yearly***
	Corey McGrath, *Alternate*	***Yearly***
Northern Berkshire Cable Representative		
	VACANT	***Yearly***
Rent Control Board		
	Selectmen	***Yearly***
Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Cheshire Representative		
	VACANT	***Yearly***

Appointment	*Name*	*Term*
Memorial Day Committee		***Yearly***
	Robin Poirot	
	Robert Balawender	
	Corey McGrath	
	Timothy Garner	
	Liseanne Karandisecky	
	Michael Alibozek	
Conservation Commission		
	Carol Francesconi *(Resigned)*	***Yearly***
	Mary Stucklen Summers	***Yearly***
	Brett Gelinas	***Yearly***
	Raymond Killeen	***Yearly***
	Ronald DeAngelis, *Alternate*	***Yearly***
Emergency Management Committee		
	Jennifer Morse	
	Shawn McGrath	
	C.J. Garner	
	Michael Alibozek	
	Thomas Francesconi	
	Corey Swistak	
	Corey McGrath	
Council on Aging		***Three Year Appointments***
	Margaret Gwozdz	2025
	Peter Traub	2027
	John Bianchi	2027
	Robert Balawender	2026
	Carol Francesconi	2026
	Barbara Proper	2025
	Valerie Tyska	2027
	Suzanne Boyle, *Alternate*	2025
	Doreen Aleshevich, *Alternate*	2025
Council on Aging Director		
	Brenda Caufield	
Council on Aging Meals Co-Ordinator		
	Dawn Krutiak	

Appointment	*Name*	*Term*
Historical Commission		***Three Year Appointments***
	Jared Martin	2027
	Jennifer DeGrenier	2027
	Liseanne Karandisecky	2026
	Corey McGrath, *Alternate*	2025
	Barry Emery	Emeritis
	Thomas Francesconi	2025
	Christopher Flynn	2025
	Edward Bassi	2025
	VACANT	2026
	VACANT, *Alternate*	2025
Board of Registrar of Voters		***Three Year Appointments***
	Elizabeth King	2026
	Marcus J. Lyon	2025
	Lora McGrath	2027
	Whitney Flynn	2027
Election Official		
	Alison Warner	***Yearly***
Asst. Election Official		
	Timothy Garner	***Yearly***
Fire Chief		
	Thomas Francesconi	***Yearly***
Assistant Fire Chiefs		
	Corey Swistak	***Yearly***
	Jason Mendonca	***Yearly***
Police Chief		
	Michael Alibozek	***Yearly***
Police Staff Sergeant		
	David Tarjick	***Yearly***
Police Officers		
	Claude Jean-Calixte, *Full Time Officer*	
	Aaron Goodell, *Full Time Officer*	
	Cody Alvarez	
	Robert Hungate	
	Mathieu Mercier	

Appointment	*Name*	*Term*
Special Police Officers		***Yearly***
	David Sinopoli	
	Paul Maloney	
	Timothy Garner	
	Robert Mallett	
Harbor Master		
	Adam Healey	
Assistant Harbor Master		
	Paul Maloney	
Zoning Board of Appeals		
	Thomas Zappula	***Yearly***
	Stephen Marko	***Yearly***
	Brian Tenczar	***Yearly***
Alternate Zoning Member		
	Robert Balawender	***Yearly***
	Jared Martin	***Yearly***
	Jeffrey Reynolds	***Yearly***
Town Perambulator		
	Barry Emery	
	Richard Salvi	
Open Space & Recreation Committee		
	Liseanne Karandisecky, *HLD Representative*	
	Jason Levesque, *Selectmen*	
	Peter Traub, *Planning Representative*	
	Jenny Gadbois, *CCA Representative*	
	VACANT, *Assessors Representative*	
	Arthur Kaufman, *Alternate*	
BRTA - Berkshire Regional Transportation		
	Raymond Killeen, *Representative*	

Appointments by the Moderator

Finance Committee		
	Kathleen Levesque	2027
	Denise Gregoire	2025
	Mickey Biagini	2027
	Jeffrey Chaput	2025
	Patrick Pettit	2025
	Austin Alibozek	2026

Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen

Annual Report July 1, 2024 - June 2025

The Annual Town Election in May re-elected Ron DeAngelis and Michelle Francesconi to the Board of Selectmen. The Board voted Shawn McGrath as Chair and Jason Levesque as Vice-Chair until the 2026 Annual Town Election.

Fiscal Year 2025 Grants/Projects

Cybersecurity Check and Grant	$ 13,224
West Mountain Road – Bridge Construction Grant	770,518
Community Compact IT Grant to Upgrade Water Meters	78,027
Police Road Safety Grant	19,180
Northern Berkshire Cultural Council Grant – Cheshire Hoedown	2,025
Wayfinding Study	25,000
Digital Equity Grant	9,040
RDP - Recycling Dividend Program	4,200
Woodlands Partnership Grant	13,250
MIIA – Trench Box Grant	10,000
Bear Proof Receptacles Grant	3,500
Engineering Phase II – Route 116	100,000
Asset Management Plan Grant – Water Department	66,000
Unaccounted for Water Grant – Water Department	10,000
Total	**$ 1,123,964**

Personnel Changes

Treasurer & Collector Positions

Rebecca Herzog retired in March 2025 having served the Town of Cheshire for twenty- eight years. Ben Gelb was hired in the transition period as Interim Treasurer/Collector. At the Annual Town Meeting in June followed by a Special Election the position was uncombined and Susan King was hired to be collector in June 2025 and Ben Gelb continues as Treasurer.

Projects

Leland Park

Churchill Gardens in Pittsfield was contracted and completed the rejuvenation of Leland Park. This project was made possible with Town ARPA funds, a donation from the Cheshire Lions Club in the amount of 5,000, and an anonymous donation of 10,000. In Fiscal Year 2025 the project was completed with a rededication ceremony taking place in July 2025.

Semi-Annual to Quarterly Tax Bill Committee and Implementation

The Board of Selectmen created a committee to explore moving from a semi-annual tax bill to quarterly tax bills in Fiscal Year 2027. The committee was tasked with providing a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen that was based on objective quantifiable evidence, identify potential risks and benefits and any supportability changes that may be required. The committee conducted a survey of twenty-three towns within Berkshire County and the Financial Management Review. The survey cited several positive impacts of a quarterly tax billing cycle, including more consistent income for the municipality, reduced budgetary risks, easier payment structure for fixed income and low-income taxpayers, and simplified administrative processes. The committee unanimously recommended transitioning to a quarterly tax billing and the voters approved at the Annual Town Meeting in June 2025.

Summer 2025 Project Completions

Both the North State Water Project which was grant funded in Fiscal Year 2024 in the amount of 472,000 and the Ingalls Road/ Hutchinson Development Project grant funded in the amount of 860,000 were completed in the summer of 2025.

Thank you to the Department Heads, Board and Committee members, and residents for your ongoing commitment to the Town of Cheshire. Your participation, whether through attending meetings, volunteering, or supporting local initiatives, has made a difference.

Town Clerk

TOWN of CHESHIRE CENSUS 2025

16 years and Over	2,844
0 to 15 years	261
	3,105

CHESHIRE VOTERS - May 2025

Democrat	458
Republican	240
Libertarian	9
Other Designation	15
Unenrolled	1,665
	2,387

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
	$125.00

RAFFLE/GAMING PERMIT

Hoosac Valley Girls Basketball Boosters	$10.00

BUSINESS CERTIFICATES

New filed	5
Renewals	5
	$200.00

STREET LISTINGS SOLD

4	$20.00

DOGS LICENSED
(March 31, 2024 – April 1, 2025)

Males	24
Neutered Males	163
Females	23
Spayed Females	186
	396

Multi-Dog

4 dogs	2
10 dogs	1

VITAL STATISTICS RECORDED

Births	**14**
Marriages	**6**
Deaths	**41**
Amendments	**4**

Amount tuned over to the Treasurer (including Late Fees) ***$4,809***

I hereby present my second Annual Town Report submission. All I can say is that this first year serving as Town Clerk has been no less than a trial by fire. One month in office I had my first Annual Town Meeting and then moved the entire Town Clerk's Office to our new location. Three months in brought a Special Town Election followed by a Special Town Meeting, then a month later was a State Primary Election, then a Regional School District Meeting and Vote, then another Special Town Meeting, and of course a Presidential Election (highest turn-out of voters on record), and finished with an Annual Town Election. Throughout the year, I attended multiple conferences and meetings to receive an education to better serve this office. All the while, making sure I was available for each of the other duties this office requires. I certainly learned a LOT, and I also made a few mistakes along the way; but I've upheld my oath of office faithfully, impartially, and to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Thank you to the previous Cheshire Town Clerk, Christine B. Emerson, for stepping in when I (and the people) needed it most, and for volunteering your time to ensure the Town Clerk's Office was supported. Your dedication, encouragement, and umbrella of knowledge has truly saved all of us, so much.

Thank you to the wonderful Cheshire Election Officials/ Workers and Registrars, for sticking it out, stepping up, and going above and beyond to ensure success during this intense election year.

Thank you to the Town Officials, Boards/Committees and Staff Members, for your continued dedication to the Town of Cheshire.

To the great residents of Cheshire: The Town Clerk's office is the People's office. Show up, get involved, and VOTE!!!

I also just want to remind everyone that although I did serve as Assistant Treasurer/Collector and Water Collector AND Town Clerk over the past year; I resigned from the other positions in May of 2025 to focus on Town Clerk duties ONLY. That means I no longer have responsibility for the Finance Office and cannot take your payments, answer your questions, or help you with matters outside of Town Clerk business. I appreciate your understanding.

With that, I have immense gratitude, utmost respect and honor for Rebecca A. Herzog, for her decades of dedicated service to the Town of Cheshire as Treasurer/Collector. She retired on March 14th, 2025, and I wish her an abundance of peace and relaxation for all her days to come!

I am grateful to you all.

Whitney E. Flynn
Town Clerk

Town of Cheshire Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups
as of June 30, 2025 (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	1,472,030.66	352,871.99	20,923.18	279,132.24		1,147,575.27		3,272,533.34
Investments								0.00
Receivables:								
Personal property taxes	3,258.97							3,258.97
Real estate taxes	157,405.93							157,405.93
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(110,388.58)							(110,388.58)
Tax liens	89,168.13							89,168.13
Deferred taxes								0.00
Motor vehicle excise	95,107.20							95,107.20
Other excises								0.00
User fees				51,813.66				51,813.66
Utility liens added to taxes				1,000.55				1,000.55
Departmental								0.00
Special assessments								0.00
Due from other governments								0.00
Other receivables				54,730.06				54,730.06
Foreclosures/Possessions	15,357.51							15,357.51
Prepaids								0.00
Due to/from other funds								0.00
Working deposit								0.00
Inventory								0.00
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation								0.00
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds				338,000.00			174,000.00	512,000.00
Amounts to be provided - vacation/sick leave								0.00
Total Assets	**1,721,939.82**	**352,871.99**	**20,923.18**	**724,676.51**	**0.00**	**1,147,575.27**	**174,000.00**	**4,141,986.77**
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY								
Liabilities:								
Warrants payable								0.00
Accounts payable								0.00
Accrued payroll	11,700.00							11,700.00
Withholdings	15,615.81							15,615.81
Accrued claims payable	12,879.53							12,879.53
Due to/from other funds								0.00
Due to other governments								0.00
Other liabilities	37,389.88			420.37				37,810.25

	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)
Deferred revenue:								
Real and personal property taxes	50,276.32							50,276.32
Tax liens	89,168.13							89,168.13
Deferred taxes								0.00
Foreclosures/Possessions	15,357.51							15,357.51
Motor vehicle excise	95,107.20							95,107.20
Other excises								0.00
User fees				51,813.66				51,813.66
Utility liens added to taxes				1,000.55				1,000.55
Departmental								0.00
Special assessments								0.00
Due from other governments	1,728.29							1,728.29
Other receivables								0.00
Deposits receivable								0.00
Prepaid taxes/fees								0.00
Tailings								0.00
IBNR								0.00
Agency Funds						(60,464.48)		(60,464.48)
Notes payable			626,000.00	338,000.00				964,000.00
Bonds payable							174,000.00	174,000.00
Vacation and sick leave liability								0.00
Total Liabilities	**329,222.67**	**0.00**	**626,000.00**	**391,234.58**	**0.00**	**(60,464.48)**	**174,000.00**	**1,459,992.77**
Fund Equity:								
Reserved for encumbrances	31,481.65							31,481.65
Reserved for expenditures	171,000.00			42,247.00				213,247.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations	23,700.00							23,700.00
Reserved for free cash	297,897.00							297,897.00
Reserved for appropriation deficit								0.00
Reserved for snow and ice deficit								0.00
Reserved for COVID-19 deficit								0.00
Reserved for debt service								0.00
Reserved for premiums								0.00
Reserved for working deposit								0.00
Undesignated fund balance	868,638.50	352,871.99	(605,076.82)			1,208,039.75		1,824,473.42
Unreserved retained earnings				291,194.93				291,194.93
Investment in capital assets								0.00
Total Fund Equity	**1,392,717.15**	**352,871.99**	**(605,076.82)**	**333,441.93**	**0.00**	**1,208,039.75**	**0.00**	**2,681,994.00**
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	**1,721,939.82**	**352,871.99**	**20,923.18**	**724,676.51**	**0.00**	**1,147,575.27**	**174,000.00**	**4,141,986.77**

Schedule A - All Parts

Schedule A Part 1 - Fiscal Year 2025
General Fund Revenues and Other Financing Sources (Fund 01)

Acct. No.	Item Description	Amount
	A. TAXES	
4110	Personal Property Taxes	151,946
4120	Real Estate Taxes	4,914,080
4150	Motor Vehicle Excise	734,272
4179	Penalties and Interest	44,844
4180	In Lieu of Taxes	25,000
4191	Hotel/Motel Excise	
4192	Meals Excise	
4193	Cannabis Excise	
4194	Boat Excise	
4198	Urban Redevelopment Excises	
4199	Other Taxes	
	A. TOTAL TAXES (NET OF REFUNDS)	**5,870,142**
	B. CHARGES FOR SERVICES/ OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES	
4211	Water Charges	
4212	Other Utility Charges	
4229	Other Charges	
4243	Parking Charges	
4244	Park and Recreation Charges	
4246	Sewerage Charges	
4247	Trash Collection Charges	
4248	Transit Charges	
4370	Other Department Revenue	82,220
	B. TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES/ OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES	**82,220**
	C. LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES	
4322	Fees Retained from Tax Collection	16,858
4323	Cannabis Impact Fee	
4324	Short-term Rental Community Impact Fee	
4400	Licenses and Permits	120,054
	C. TOTAL LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES	**136,912**
	D. FEDERAL REVENUE	
4540	Unrestricted - Direct	21,348
4580	Unrestricted - Through the State	
	D. TOTAL FEDERAL REVENUE	**21,348**
	E. REVENUES FROM STATE	
4600	State Revenue	1,023,698
	E. TOTAL REVENUES FROM STATE	**1,023,698**
	F. REVENUES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS	
4695	Court Fines	
4720	Received From the County for Services Performed	
4730	Received From Other Municipalities for Services Performed	
	F. TOTAL REVENUES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS	
	G. SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	
4750	Special Assessments	24,169
	G. TOTAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	**24,169**
	H. FINES, AND FOREFITURES	
4770	Fines and Forfeitures	
	H. TOTAL FINES AND FORFEITURES	
	I. MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	
4820	Earnings on Investments	15,085
	I. TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	**15,085**
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	**7,173,574**
	J. OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	
4990	Other Financing Sources	
	J. TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCIAL SOURCES	**7,173,574**
	K. INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS	
4972	Transfers from Special Revenue Funds	
4973	Transfers from Capital Projects Funds	
4975	Transfers from Enterprise Funds	
4976	Transfers from Trust Funds	150,534
4977	Transfers from Agency Funds	
	K. TOTAL INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS	**150,534**
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES, OTHER FINANCING SOURCES, AND INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS		**7,324,108**

Schedule A Part 2 - Fiscal Year 2025

General Government (100)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Legislative	Executive	Accountant Auditor	Collector	Treasurer	Law Department Town/City Counsel	Public Building/ Properties Maintenance	Assessors	Operations Support	License and Registration	Land Use	Con. Com.	Other
5100	Salary and Wages	18,985	122,755			88,134	24,167	64,550	43,638		28,757	1,280	1,020	
5700	Expenditures	126,393	2,974	39,148		25,938		208,700	47,694		22,633	5,688	1,375	
5800A	Construction													
5800B	Capital Outlay													
	TOTAL	**145,378**	**125,729**	**39,148**		**114,072**	**24,167**	**273,250**	**91,332**		**51,390**	**6,968**	**2,395**	

Schedule A Part 2 - Public Safety (200)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Police	Fire	Emerg. Med. Services	Inspection	Other
5100	Salary and Wages	250,187	36,406		32,479	1,500
5700	Expenditures	69,821	97,341		6,719	566
5800A	Construction					
5800B	Capital Outlay					
	TOTAL	**320,008**	**133,747**		**39,198**	**2,066**

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		3,098,997	547,430		
5800A	Construction					
5800B	Capital Outlay					
	TOTAL		**3,098,997**	**547,430**		

Schedule A Part 2 - Fiscal Year 2025 *(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		310,529						
5700	Expenditures	163,554	372,164	5,483				76,875	23,215
5800A	Construction								
5800B	Capital Outlay								
	TOTAL	**163,554**	**682,693**	**5,483**				**76,875**	**23,215**

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	16,649		53,201		28,831
5700	Expenditures	8,489		5,449	38,118	6,711
5800A	Construction					
5800B	Capital Outlay					
	TOTAL	**25,138**		**58,650**	**38,118**	**35,542**

Schedule A Part 2 - Culture and Recreation (600)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Library	Recreation	Parks	Historical Commission	Celebrations	Other
5100	Salary and Wages	40,428					
5700	Expenditures		9,407		283		
5800A	Construction						
5800B	Capital Outlay						
	TOTAL	**40,428**	**9,407**		**283**		

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	142,600	35,016		
	TOTAL	**142,600**	**35,016**		

Schedule A Part 2 - Fiscal Year 2025 *(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			303,534			102,091	67,795	164,553	2,200
	TOTAL			**303,534**			**102,091**	**67,795**	**164,553**	**2,200**

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

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Amount
5960	Transfers to Other Funds	91,079
5990	Other Financing Uses	
	TOTAL	**91,079**

Schedule A Part 2 - Total All General Fund Expenditures

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Total
	EXPENDITURES	
5100	Salary and Wages	1,163,496
5700	Expenditures	5,011,165
5800A	Construction	
5800B	Capital Outlay	
5900	Debt Service	177,616
0001	Unclassified	640,173
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	**6,992,450**

OTHER FINANCING USES

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Total
5960	Transfers to Other Funds	91,079
5990	Other Financing Uses	
	TOTAL TRANSFERS AND OTHER FINANCING USES	**91,079**
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	**7,083,529**

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2025

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	154,782									154,782
5800A	Construction										
5800B	Capital Outlay										
5900	Debt Service										
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**154,782**									**154,782**
	OTHER FINANCING USES										
5960	Transfers to Other Funds										
5990	Other Financing Uses										
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES										
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	**154,782**									**154,782**
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)	**-154,782**									**-154,782**
0002	**Fund Balance Beginning of Year**	**178,664**									**178,664**
0003	Adjustments										
0004	**Fund Balance End of Year**	**23,882**									**23,882**

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2025 *(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		44,360	1,449,105				16,635	10,004	94,585	1,614,689
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues										
4820	Earnings on Investments										
	TOTAL REVENUES		**44,360**	**1,449,105**				**16,635**	**10,004**	**94,585**	**1,614,689**
	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		**44,360**	**1,449,105**				**16,635**	**10,004**	**94,585**	**1,614,689**
	EXPENDITURES										
5100	Salary and Wages										
5700	Expenditures	30,000	18,420	1,407,134				15,503	13,772		1,484,829
5800A	Construction										
5800B	Capital Outlay										
5900	Debt Service										
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**30,000**	**18,420**	**1,407,134**				**15,503**	**13,772**		**1,484,829**
	OTHER FINANCING USES										
5960	Transfers to Other Funds										
5990	Other Financing Uses										
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES										
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	**30,000**	**18,420**	**1,407,134**				**15,503**	**13,772**		**1,484,829**
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)	**-30,000**	**25,940**	**41,971**				**1,132**	**-3,768**	**94,585**	**129,860**
0002	**Fund Balance Beginning of Year**	**56,700**	**-20,984**	**79,738**		**982**		**20,817**	**58,932**	**-35,084**	**161,101**
0003	Adjustments										
0004	**Fund Balance End of Year**	**26,700**	**4,956**	**121,709**		**982**		**21,949**	**55,164**	**59,501**	**290,961**

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2025 *(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									1,005	1,005
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues			2,810							2,810
4820	Earnings on Investments										
	TOTAL REVENUES			**2,810**						**1,005**	**3,815**
	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			**2,810**						**1,005**	**3,815**
	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)			**2,810**						**1,005**	**3,815**
0002	**Fund Balance Beginning of Year**									**822**	**822**
0003	Adjustments										
0004	**Fund Balance End of Year**			**2,810**						**1,827**	**4,637**

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2025 *(Continued)*

Schedule A Part 3 - Revolving Funds (RF01)

Acct. No.	Item Description	Education	Athletic	Parks and Recreation	Ch. 44, 53E 1/2	Other	Total
	REVENUES						
4100	Taxes and Excises						
4200	Charges for Services						
4500	Federal Revenue						
4600	State Revenue						
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues					14,923	14,923
4820	Earnings on Investments						
	TOTAL REVENUES					**14,923**	**14,923**
	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					**14,923**	**14,923**
	EXPENDITURES						
5100	Salary and Wages						
5700	Expenditures					13,201	13,201
5800A	Construction						
5800B	Capital Outlay						
5900	Debt Service						
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES					**13,201**	**13,201**
	OTHER FINANCING USES						
5960	Transfers to Other Funds						
5990	Other Financing Uses						
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES						
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES					**13,201**	**13,201**
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)					**1,722**	**1,722**
0002	**Fund Balance Beginning of Year**					**23,936**	**23,936**
0003	Adjustments						
0004	**Fund Balance End of Year**					**25,658**	**25,658**

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2025 *(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										8,311		8,311
4820	Earnings on Investments												
	TOTAL REVENUES										**8,311**		**8,311**
	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										**8,311**		**8,311**
	EXPENDITURES												
5100	Salary and Wages												
5700	Expenditures										9,249		9,249
5800A	Construction												
5800B	Capital Outlay												
5900	Debt Service												
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES										**9,249**		**9,249**
	OTHER FINANCING USES												
5960	Transfers to Other Funds												
5990	Other Financing Uses												
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES												
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES										**9,249**		**9,249**
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)										-938		-938
0002	**Fund Balance Beginning of Year**										**8,672**		**8,672**
0003	Adjustments												
0004	**Fund Balance End of Year**										**7,734**		**7,734**

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2025 *(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	1,615,694
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	26,044
4820	Earnings on Investments	
	TOTAL REVENUES	**1,641,738**
	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	**1,641,738**
	EXPENDITURES	
5100	Salary and Wages	
5700	Expenditures	1,662,061
5800A	Construction	
5800B	Capital Outlay	
5900	Debt Service	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**1,662,061**
	OTHER FINANCING USES	
5960	Transfers to Other Funds	
5990	Other Financing Uses	
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	**1,662,061**
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)	**-20,323**
0002	**Fund Balance Beginning of Year**	**373,195**
0003	Adjustments	
0004	**Fund Balance End of Year**	**352,872**

Schedule A Part 4 - Fiscal Year 2025

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							174,000	174,000
4970	Transfers From Other Funds								
4990	Other Financing Sources							162,600	162,600
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES							**336,600**	**336,600**
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES							**336,600**	**336,600**
	EXPENDITURES								
5100	Salary and Wages								
5700	Expenditures							156,780	156,780
5800A	Construction								
5800B	Capital Outlay								
5900	Debt Service								
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES							**156,780**	**156,780**
	OTHER FINANCING USES								
5960	Transfers to Other Funds								
5990	Other Financing Uses								
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES								
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES							**156,780**	**156,780**
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)							**179,820**	**179,820**
0002	**Fund Balance Beginning of Year**							**-784,897**	**-784,897**
0003	Adjustments								
0004	**Fund Balance End of Year**							**-605,077**	**-605,077**

Schedule A Part 5 - Fiscal Year 2025

Schedule A Part 5 - Enterprise Funds

Acct. No.	Item Description	Water	Sewer	Electric	Landfills	Hospital	Health Care	Airport	Harbor	Golf Courses	Public Recreation	Other	Total
	REVENUES												
4100	Taxes and Excises												
4200	Charges for Services	371,883			111,773								483,656
4500	Federal Revenue												
4600	State Revenue												
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	3,851											3,851
4820	Earnings on Investments	2,009			78								2,087
	TOTAL REVENUES	**377,743**			**111,851**								**489,594**
	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES												
4910	Bond Proceeds												
4970	Transfers from Other Funds				61,079								61,079
4990	Other Financing Sources												
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				**61,079**								**61,079**
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	**377,743**			**172,930**								**550,673**
	EXPENDITURES												
5100	Salary and Wages	96,474			23,729								120,203
5700	Expenditures	98,720			117,130								215,850
5800A	Construction												
5800B	Capital Outlay	237,297											237,297
5900	Debt Service	63,315											63,315
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**495,806**			**140,859**								**636,665**
	OTHER FINANCING USES												
5960	Transfers to Other Funds												
5990	Other Financing Uses												
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES												
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	**495,806**			**140,859**								**636,665**
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)	**-118,063**			**32,071**								**-85,992**
0002	**Fund Balance Beginning of Year**	**419,434**											**419,434**
0003	Adjustments												
0004	**Fund Balance End of Year**	**301,371**			**32,071**								**333,442**

Schedule A Part 6 - Fiscal Year 2025

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

Acct. No.	Item Description	Non-Expendable	Workers Comp-ensation	Pension Reserve	Stabilization	Special Purpose Stabilization	Hlth Claim C/T Share	Hlth Claim Employee	Conser-vation	OPEB	Other	Total
	REVENUES											
4100	Taxes and Excises											
4200	Charges for Services											
4500	Federal Revenue											
4600	State Revenue											
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	3,400									2,125	5,525
4820	Earnings on Investments	3,168			17,348	15,517				13,287	372	49,692
	TOTAL REVENUES	**6,568**			**17,348**	**15,517**				**13,287**	**2,497**	**55,217**
	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES											
4970	Transfers From Other Funds					10,000				20,000		30,000
4990	Other Financing Sources											
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES					**10,000**				**20,000**		**30,000**
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	**6,568**			**17,348**	**25,517**				**33,287**	**2,497**	**85,217**
	EXPENDITURES											
5100	Salary and Wages											
5700	Expenditures	17,960										17,960
5800A	Construction											
5800B	Capital Outlay											
5900	Debt Service											
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**17,960**										**17,960**
	OTHER FINANCING USES											
5960	Transfers to Other Funds				150,534							150,534
5990	Other Financing Uses											
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES				**150,534**							**150,534**
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	**17,960**			**150,534**							**168,494**
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)	**-11,392**			**-133,186**	**25,517**				**33,287**	**2,497**	**-83,277**
0002	**Fund Balance Beginning of Year**	**268,132**			**577,547**	**304,216**				**116,047**	**25,374**	**1,291,316**
0003	Adjustments											
0004	**Fund Balance End of Year**	**256,740**			**444,361**	**329,733**				**149,334**	**27,871**	**1,208,039**

Schedule A Part 7 - Fiscal Year 2025

Schedule A Part 7 - Agency Funds

Acct. No.	Item Description	Balance July 1, 2024	Additions	Transfer From	Deductions	Transfer To	Balance June 30, 2025
	ASSETS						
0005	Cash	-46,301	270,931		285,094		-60,464
0006	Accounts Receivable						
	TOTAL ASSETS	**-46,301**	**270,931**		**285,094**		**-60,464**
	LIABILITIES						
0007	Police Outside Detail	-54,870	245,867		255,224		-64,227
0008	Fire Off Duty Detail						
0009	Tax Due State						
0010	Meals Tax Due State						
0011	Licenses Due State	1,962	11,250		11,762		1,450
0012	Due County/Retirement Systems						
0013	Guarantee Bid Deposits	4,587	3,675		7,025		1,237
0014	Unclaimed Items						
0015	Other Liabilities	2,020	10,139		11,083		1,076
	TOTAL LIABILITIES -	**46,301**	**270,931**		**285,094**		**-60,464**

Schedule A Part 8 - Fiscal Year 2025

Schedule A Part 8 - Personnel Expenditures

Total Salaries and Wages as of December 31, -1 as Reported on IRS Form W-2	**1,279,506**
Total Number of Employees (FTE) for Calendar Year Ending December 31, -1	**17**

Schedule A Part 9 - Fiscal Year 2025

Schedule A Part 9 - Schedule of Cash and Investments

Acct. No.	Item Description	Cash and Investments
	FUNDS	
0016	General Fund	1,472,031
0017	Special Revenue	352,872
0018	Debt Service Fund	
0019	Capital Project Funds	20,923
0020	Enterprise Funds	279,132
0021	Trust Funds	1,208,039
0022	Agency Funds	-60,464
	TOTAL ALL FUNDS	**3,272,533**

Schedule A Part 10 - Fiscal Year 2025

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

Acct. No.	Item Description	Outstanding July 1, 2024	Issued this Fiscal Year	Retired this Fiscal Year	Outstanding June 30, 2025	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	351,000	174,000	13,000	512,000	7,898
	TOTAL INSIDE DEBT LIMIT	**351,000**	**174,000**	**13,000**	**512,000**	**7,898**
	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					
	Total Outside Debt Limit					
	Total Long Term Debt	**351,000**	**174,000**	**13,000**	**512,000**	**7,898**
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	962,600	120,000	456,600	626,000	57,516
	TOTAL SHORT TERM DEBT	**962,600**	**120,000**	**456,600**	**626,000**	**57,516**
	D. OTHER INTEREST					
D022	Other Interest					

Item Description	Authorized	Issued/Retired Rescinded	Unissued June 30, 2025
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 2025

Schedule A Part 11 - Reconciliation of Fund Equity (Retained Earnings) for the Fiscal Year End June 30, 2025

	Item Description	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Trust	Total
1	Total Revenue	7,173,574	1,641,738		489,594	55,217	9,360,123
2	Total Expenditures	6,992,450	1,662,061	156,780	636,665	17,960	9,465,916
3	**TOTAL EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES (LINE 1 - LINE 2)**	**181,124**	**-20,323**	**-156,780**	**-147,071**	**37,257**	**-105,793**
4	Transfers from Other Funds	150,534			61,079	30,000	241,613
5	Other Financing Sources			336,600			336,600
6	Transfers to Other Funds	91,079				150,534	241,613
7	Other Financing Uses						
8	**TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) SUM OF LINES 4 AND 5 MINUS LINES 6 AND 7**	**59,455**		**336,600**	**61,079**	**-120,534**	**336,600**
9	**TOTAL EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) (SUM OF LINES 3 AND 8)**	**240,579**	**-20,323**	**179,820**	**-85,992**	**-83,277**	**230,807**
10	Fund Equity (Retained Earnings) Beginning of Year	1,112,109	373,195	-784,897	419,434	1,291,316	2,411,157
11	Other Adjustments	40,029					40,029
12	**TOTAL FUND EQUITY (RETAINED EARNINGS) END OF YEAR (SUM OF LINES 9 THROUGH 11)**	**1,392,717**	**352,872**	**-605,077**	**333,442**	**1,208,039**	**2,681,993**

Schedule A Submission - Fiscal Year 2025

Signatures

Peter Schmidt
Town Accountant
Cheshire

Schedule A KAR-1 - Fiscal Year 2025

Schedule A KAR-1

Cash Balance

Fund	Balance Sheet	Schedule A	Variance
General Fund	1,472,031	1,472,031	0
Special Revenue	352,872	352,872	0
Capital Project Funds	20,923	20,923	0
Enterprise Funds	279,132	279,132	0
Trust & Agency Funds	1,147,575	1,147,575	0
Debt Service Fund		0	0
Total	**3,272,533**	**3,272,533**	**0**

Fund Equity Balance

Fund	Balance Sheet	Schedule A	Variance
General Fund	1,392,717	1,392,717	0
Special Revenue	352,872	352,872	0
Capital Project Funds	-605,077	-605,077	0
Enterprise Funds	333,442	333,442	0
Trust Funds	1,208,039	1,208,039	0
Total	**2,681,993**	**2,681,993**	**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 2025 is hereby submitted:

Departmental Receipts	Receipt Detail	Total Receipts
Board of Health		
Transfer Station Revenue	$ 111,772.91	
Mobile Home Fees	24,169.00	
RDP Grant	4,200.00	
Bear Proof Grant	2,025.36	
Permits	7,850.00	
Health Fees	3,660.00	$ 153,677.27
Board of Selectmen		
Licenses/Fees	5,650.00	
Rental Income	38,748.76	
Federal Revenue	20,190.00	
Leland Park (Cheese Press)	5,000.00	
Community Compact IT Grant	78,027.00	
Opioid Settlement Revenue	1,005.69	148,621.45
Building Inspector		
Permits	37,348.00	37,348.00
Cemetery		
Grave Openings	**5,775.00**	
Misc Work & Wkend Charge	100.00	
Equipment Use	50.00	
Deed Fee	1,410.00	
Perpetual Care Fund	3,400.00	
Sale of Lots	2,125.00	12,860.00
Commonwealth of MA		
General Government (Lottery)	756,413.00	
Chapter 70	16,351.00	
State Owned Land	195,138.08	
Elderly/Blind Exemption Reimbursement	26,195.00	
Lead Service Line Grant	64,564.00	
Green Communities Grant	16,557.63	
School Transportation Reimbursement	31,229.61	
Other State Revenue	363.00	
CH 90 State Aid	490,341.24	
Library Grant	10,003.62	
MassWorks Grant	890,000.00	
Body Worn Camera Grant	25,347.60	
Municipal Road Safety Grant	11,340.00	
Extended Polling Reimbursement	3,380.51	
Charter Cable PEG Reimbursement	11,313.16	
RMV Infractions	3,427.50	
EMPG Grant (Fire Dept.)	7,671.99	
Veteran Services Reimbursement	26,219.95	2,585,856.89
Conservation Commission		
Fees/Permits	4,060.00	4,060.00
Council on Aging		
Revolving Fund Gift Account	3,062.00	
Elder Affairs Grant	16,635.00	
MCOA Grant	-	
Van Receipts	5,897.89	25,594.89

Departmental Receipts	Receipt Detail	Total Receipts
Dept. of Interior		
PILOT - Federally Owned Land	1,158.00	1,158.00
Fire Dept.		
Permits	3,550.00	
EMPG Grant FY23	2,471.99	
EMPG Grant FY24	5,200.00	11,221.99
Interest		
General Fund & Stabilization	47,950.36	
Trust Funds	3,539.67	
OPEB Trust Fund	13,287.20	64,777.23
Misc Revenue	1,486.92	1,486.92
Planning Board		
Filing Fees	2,080.00	2,080.00
Plumbing/Gas Inspector		
Permits	3,610.00	3,610.00
Police Dept.		
Details	5,733.93	
Firearm Permits	787.50	
CMVI - RMV Infractions	-	
Revolving Fund Revenue	-	
Road Safety Grant	11,340.00	
Fees/Fines	12,764.85	30,626.28
Recreation		
Events/Revolving	6,710.64	6,710.64
Reimbursements		
BRPC Return Unspent Match	-	-
Tax Collector		
Taxes/Interest/Fees	5,841,656.71	5,841,656.71
Town Clerk		
Dog Licenses	4,275.00	
Retained Fees	-	
Miscellaneous	534.50	4,809.50
Treasurer		
Health Insurance Premiums	-	
Tax Title Revenue	44,697.86	44,697.86
Water Dept.		
Water Receipts	371,882.70	
Work Permits	935.00	
Interest/Fees	2,416.37	
Earnings on Investments	2,008.76	
Water Meter Readings	500.00	
Lead Service Line / State Road Grant	472,600.00	850,342.83
Wire Inspector		
Permits	19,608.00	19,608.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS FY 2025:	**$ 9,850,804.46**	**$ 9,850,804.46**

SCHEDULE OF TRUST FUNDS:

OPEB Trust Fund	$ 149,334.49
Stabilization	444,361.80
Capital Stabilization	289,699.92
Radio Communications Stabilization	40,032.86
Cemetery Dept. - Perpetual Care	155,775.85
Cemetery Dept. - Sale of Lots	27,526.70
Cemetery Dept. - Whipple and Harkness	32,829.13
Cemetery Dept. - Dumont	5,195.81
Cemetery Dept. - Benjamin & Phyllis Bissell	1,378.82
Cemetery Dept. - John L. Brown	1,682.13
Cemetery Dept. - Lorraine N. Braund	45,504.94
Philip Burns Public Library	4,482.75
Philip Burns Public School	20,830.72
Westminster Chime	1,548.36
Veteran's Memorial	2,751.78
Balance June 30, 2025	**$ 1,222,936.06**

LOANS:

BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE - MUNICIPAL PURPOSE LOAN
Greenfield Cooperative Bank

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 - 4.10%		
Balance July 1, 2024		641,000.00
Paydown on Water Main Replacement:		(20,000.00)
Paydown on Highway Truck:		(47,000.00)
BAN renewal amount:		**574,000.00**
Interest Expense	$ 28,845.00	
Balance June 30, 2025		**$ 574,000.00**

BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE - DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT
Greenfield Cooperative Bank

Loan Amount (Renewal)		$ 321,600.00
Fire Truck:	$ 209,000.00	
Highway Truck:	78,000.00	
Highway Grader:	34,600.00	
Issue Date - January 26, 2024		
Due Date - January 24, 2025		
Interest Rate - 4.30%		
Balance July 1, 2024		321,600.00
Paydown on Fire Truck:		(35,000.00)
Paydown on Highway Truck:		(26,000.00)
Paydown on Highway Grader:		(34,600.00)
BAN renewal amount:		**226,000.00**
Interest Expense	14,871.32	
Balance June 30, 2025		**226,000.00**

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, 2024		351,000.00
Annual Payment Amount		(13,000.00)
Interest Expense	$ 7,897.50	
Balance June 30, 2025		**$ 338,000.00**

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin Gelb

Tax Collector

MISSION:

- To ensure the efficient and timely collection of taxes in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws and as committed to the Collector by the Board of Assessors.
- To provide courteous, comprehensive, fair and legal services to residents seeking information or assistance.
- To serve our residents professionally and courteously.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Outstanding Taxes as of July 1, 2024

Real Estate	$ 209,499.36
Personal Property	2,508.79
Water Utility	329,180.74
Motor Vehicle	62,511.75
Total	**603,700.64**

Tax Warrant Committed to Collect

Real Estate	4,847,173.90
Personal Property	154,664.26
Water Utility	280,277.00
Motor Vehicle	787,633.43
Total	**6,069,748.59**

Abatements / Exemptions

Real Estate	32,554.96
Personal Property	1,968.21
Water Utility	4,777.99
Motor Vehicle	21,307.09
Total	**60,608.25**

Hoosac Lake District

July 1, 2024 Outstanding	6,414.17
Committed to Collect	38,518.78
Collected / Turned Over	(40,196.37)
Refunds	(.01)
June 30, 2025 Outstanding	**$ 5,175.56**

Outstanding Taxes as of June 30, 2025

Real Estate	$ 155,420.15
Personal Property	3,258.97
Water Utility	290,890.28
Motor Vehicle	100,920.73
Total	**550,490.13**

Tax Collected / Turned Over

Real Estate	4,868,698.15
Personal Property	151,945.87
Water Utility	313,789.47
Motor Vehicle	727,917.36
Interest	38,318.50
Fees	25,788.04
Total	**6,126,457.39**

Refunds

Real Estate	2,152.26
Personal Property	97.39
Motor Vehicle	14,680.88
Total	**$ 16,930.53**

Annual Highlights:

- At the beginning of 2025, the Billing/Collections and the Water Department converted and implemented a new Billing/Collections system.
- In March of 2025, Ben Gelb was appointed as the Treasurer.
- On June 10, 2025, Susan King was appointed as the Tax Collector.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan King
Tax Collector

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority

STAY CONNECTED - BRTA Annual Report FY 2025

Increasing Ridership

In its 51st year, the transit system experienced enormous growth in ridership! In large part, the increase can be attributed to funding from the Commonwealth. This allowed BRTA to offer fare-free rides which yielded a 16% increase. Paid ridership was up, too. In August of 2025, there were 65,000 riders compared with the previous year's 50,000 – an increase of 15,000.

Getting People Where They Need And Want To Go

These numbers all exceeded ridership, both pre- and post-COVID, by nearly 20,000. In a region like the Berkshires, public transit makes such a difference in so many people's lives. With a service area of this size, BRTA provides the connective infrastructure that enables people who prefer not to drive or those who have no other means of transportation to get where they want and need to go.

Reducing Emissions

Thanks to BRTA's securing of two Federal Transit Authority grants, BRTA has replaced five diesel-powered large buses with hybrids, offering improved fuel economy and reduced emissions. Some studies suggest fuel efficiency gains of up to 37%. While it's true that all electric vehicles are available, they aren't practical for the long runs required in this region. Hybrids have longer range and require less infrastructure investment, e.g., charging facilities.

Supporting Public Transit

With the new administration in Washington, public transit had some concerns about ongoing funding priorities. BRTA had submitted grant applications to purchase four new 40' hybrid buses and a bus simulator in FY 2024. We remain optimistic that we will receive this funding in early FY 2026. We are hopeful that public transit will continue to receive the resources necessary to continue to grow our fleet of clean energy vehicles.

Certified Travel Trainer At The Ready

BRTA employee Julie Davine has been teaching individuals, groups, people with disabilities, and older adults how to ride the bus for years. Julie's training includes all the basics: learning the bus routes, how to plan a trip, and understanding the fare structure.

Her training is self-paced, with an emphasis on safety. People are often surprised to learn that Julie will travel with trainees while they get the hang of bus travel. They are also surprised that there is no charge for the travel training service.

Public transit helps keep people connected and functioning independently. Many Berkshire residents don't have cars or no longer drive. Julie gets a great deal of satisfaction from helping grow ridership with confident, knowledgeable customers.

Fare-Free Riding

For most of this fiscal year, customers have been able to ride fare-free, thanks to Governor Healey's FY 2025 budget. According to Berkshire Transit Management, **ridership surpassed 600,000** for the first time since the 1970s.

Berkshire County families that rely on public transit have had a little extra breathing room in their household budgets. That means extra dollars for food, utilities, rent, or childcare. All BRTA's 15-fixed route and paratransit services are available at no charge.

There are some challenges to meeting increased demand. Driver shortages have been an ongoing issue. BRTA has been addressing the shortage, offering free training and a $1,000 sign on bonus for new employees. We're hoping to attract and retain qualified drivers to meet our system's needs.

Bob Malnati's Achievements

If you've met Bob Malnati, you know he's not the kind of guy who'll talk about his successes. Given his recent decision to retire, it's fitting to do some talking for him. Who better to provide some insights into his achievements than Deputy Administrator Sarah Vallieres?

Customer-focused

When Sarah first joined BRTA, she told Bob she couldn't make any sense out of the bus schedules. She figured if she had difficulty, so did other passengers. Bob and his team started researching bus schedules in other regions as well as ADA considerations and developed customer-friendly bus schedules. Since that time, even more improvements have been made.

It used to be that the ITC was the only transfer spot in Pittsfield, an inconvenience for many customers. Bob reconfigured the transfer map to include multiple spots along the system. BRTA buses no longer "deadhead" to the start of the bus routes as was past practice. Now, BRTA buses pick up customers as soon as the buses are on the road. Just one more example of system improvements with customers in mind.

In 2016, Bob initiated a travel training program. He figured there were Berkshire residents who had never taken the bus and who might feel intimidated to try. This program continues to this day. BRTA's travel trainer has created 100s of newly minted customers.

Cyber Secure

According to Sarah, Bob is very concerned with cyber security. He instituted micro training sessions with BRTA's computer consultant that include regular random testing. The BRTA team has greater confidence identifying links that "should never be clicked on". Most recently, BRTA has moved from .com to .gov, yet another security measure.

Collaborative

Bob has played an important role in several of the region's key initiatives including Downtown Pittsfield, Soldier On, and the United Way. He was instrumental in helping make the Berkshire Flyer a reality. Most recently, he has been hard at work bringing Link 413 to life.

Greener Transit System

Bob has worked hard to secure funding to update the fleet to hybrids. Five large hybrid buses are currently on the road. Grant funding for three more was approved during the previous administration. If Bob had his way, the entire fleet would either be hybrid or hydrogen powered.

Closing Thought

Bob has accomplished a lot during his 11-year tenure as BRTA Administrator. While he's retiring, he's planning to remain in the area. Our guess is, he'll continue to contribute to the quality of life in the Berkshires.

BY THE NUMBERS

REVENUES		EXPENSES	
Total Operating + Non-operating Revenues of $10,576,713 by Source		**Total Operating + Non-operating Expenses of $12,005,723 by Source**	
Federal & State operating grants	85%	Transportation services	81%
Local community assessments	10%	Depreciation	12%
Fixed route & demand response	3%	Administration	7%
Other	2%		

TOTAL RIDERSHIP

Fixed Route	**613,408**
Paratransit	**32,363**
Average customers per day	**2,011**
Average customers per hour	**12**

BRTA TRIP HISTORY

	FY25	FY24	FY23
Bikes	6,856	6,549	5,266
Mobility Devices	3,663	2,877	1,998
Total	**10,519**	**9,426**	**7,264**

Bob Has The Last Word

As of April 2025, I informed the Advisory Board that I would retire at the end of the contract year or when a new administrator was in place. That said, this is my final annual report message—**one of gratitude.**

Thank you to all the BRTA customers, fixed route and paratransit. The BRTA depends on your trust and ridership. You have seen us through countless service changes, endured operator shortages resulting in cancellations. You joined us in celebrating fifty years of service, and responded with record ridership for both fixed route and paratransit.

Many thanks to the **BRTA Advisory Board** for your support throughout my years of service. You've stood by the BRTA during many challenges including the impact of COVID, a transit strike (or two), program cuts, and new pilot programs.

Thank you to the BRTA staff. You keep the fleet running, the grants flowing, the customers riding. You teach new riders how to make public transit part of their daily lives. You generate new ideas and embrace new technologies.

To the **operating company with the operators, mechanics, utility staff, supervisors, dispatchers, schedulers and call takers,** I thank you all. You do your very best to serve our customers and we notice. Your commitment to excellence makes a world of difference.

Finally, I want to thank **my family**. Being a public transit administrator is not a 9-5 job. There are many early morning road trips to Boston, late evening paperwork, regular cellphone interruptions and my ever present laptop, even on holidays. Thank you for your patience and support. I'm looking forward to spending more time at home with family and friends.

I have so many fond memories of my tenure at BRTA – the people I've served with and the customers with whom I've crossed paths. We've done good work and had a few laughs along the way.

For all of you, I am grateful. Thank You.

Until we meet again,

Bob Malnati

Board of Assessors

The annual report of the Board of Assessors for Fiscal Year 2025 is hereby submitted.

Fiscal year 2025 Real Estate and Personal Property taxes were committed to the Tax Collector on October 29, 2024. The Hoosac Lake Restoration & Preservation District taxes were committed to the Tax Collector on December 23, 2024.

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.

FY 2025 brought our five-year re-certification with the Dept. of Revenue. Final Certification of values was received on August 22, 2024. Adjustments and value table changes were made to reflect the market which increased overall Town values.

We welcome Frederick Hobart who joined the Board of Assessors on June 10, 2025.

The Real Estate and Personal Property tax rate decreased from $11.57 to $11.13.

The Hoosac Lake District tax rate decreased from $1.19 to $1.05

Real Estate & Personal Property Commitments and Abatements

Commitments

Type	No. of Bills	Tax	Valuation
Real Estate	1621	$ 4,847,092.65	$ 435,497,261
Personal Prop	37	154,664.26	13,896,143
Hoosac Lake Dist	106	38,518.78	36,683,800
Revised/Omitted	1	81.25	
Total	**1765**	**$ 5,040,356,.94**	**$ 486,084,504**

Abatements & Exemptions

Abatements	RE	4	$ 1,305.59
Abatements	PP	4	1,968.21
Abatements	LD	0	0.00
Elderly Exempt		15	5,963.55
Veteran Exempt		31	24,848.32
Blind Exempt		1	437.50
Clause 18 Exempt		0	0.00
Total			**$ 34,523.17**

Motor Vehicle Excise Commitments & Abatements

Commitments

Year	No. of Bills	Tax
2023	2	$ 161.04
2024	372	73,629.74
2025	4,030	713,842.65
Total	**4,404**	**$ 787,633.43**

Abatements

Year	No. of Abatements	Tax Abated
2022	5	$ 536.56
2023	10	980.62
2024	52	5,225.16
2025	75	14,186.08
Total	**142**	**$ 20,928.42**

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Astorino
Kellie Lahey
Frederick Hobart

Building Inspector

Fee Summary Report 07/01/24 to 06/30/25

Permits	Appli-cations	Payment Trans-actions	Issued	Cost	Fees	Cash	Check	Waived	Online Payment	Refund
Certificate of Inspection	6	6	6	$ 0.00	$ 238.00	$ 0.00	$ 83.00	$ 40.00	$ 155.00	($ 0.00)
Certificate of Occupancy (Comm)	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(0.00)
Certificate of Occupancy (Res)	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(0.00)
Commercial Building Permit	8	8	8	2,491,378.00	10,210.00	0.00	9,910.00	215.00	300.00	(0.00)
Residential Building Permit	159	159	159	13,186,050.37	26,160.00	175.00	550.00	80.00	25,435.00	(0.00)
Sheet Metal	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(0.00)
Sign	2	2	2	37,000.00	200.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	(0.00)
Solid Fuel Appliance	7	7	7	28,935.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	300.00	(0.00)
Tent	2	2	2	5,001.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	(0.00)
Trench Permit	1	1	1	20,000.00	35.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.00	(0.00)
TOTAL	**185**	**185**	**185**	**15,768,364.37**	**37,193.00**	**175.00**	**10,643.00**	**435.00**	**26,375.00**	**(0.00)**
Gas Permit	28	28	28	188,958.00	1,700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,700.00	(0.00)
TOTAL	**28**	**28**	**28**	**188,958.00**	**1,700.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**1,700.00**	**(0.00)**
Plumbing Permit	23	23	23	212,889.00	2,290.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,290.00	(0.00)
TOTAL	**23**	**23**	**23**	**212,889.00**	**2,290.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**2,290.00**	**(0.00)**
Electrical Permit	98	99	98	1,101,694.63	20,238.00	100.00	375.00	4.00	19,763.00	(0.00)
TOTAL	**98**	**99**	**98**	**1,101,694.63**	**20,238.00**	**100.00**	**375.00**	**4.00**	**19,763.00**	**(0.00)**

Cemetery Commission

To the residents of the Town of Cheshire, as chairman of the Cemetery Commission, it is my pleasure to submit the following annual report for fiscal year 2025, July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

During this year, we had 3 full burials, 6 cremation burials, and sold a total of 18 plots at the cemetery.

As I took over the Chairman's position from Richard Francesconi, who has stepped down, I would like to thank him for his valuable help and insight into the operations of the commissioners. It was greatly appreciated, and I wish him well with his new time on his hands.

We started using the Perpetual Care Account for what it was intended for: maintenance and care of the cemetery grounds. We have started updating our aging grounds-keeping equipment, as well as purchasing all new items needed for the day of a funeral such as chairs, a canopy to protect from the elements, as well as astro turf, and a cremains table; all to ease the families' minds on the day of their loved one's funeral.

In the plans we started this year, going forward we will be utilizing a large piece of cemetery property that we cannot currently use because of ledge. We have hired a landscape designer whom will be building a stone wall to allow the Town to fill in and allow us to be able to have it all laid out and be able to sell smaller plots for cremations only in this designated area. This will help save our existing full-burial plots for that intention and allow a cheaper plot for cremains only. We will be updating on our facebook page as work progresses.

My thanks go out to our amazing seasonal summer staff that take care of eight cemetery sites throughout Town. Also to our Highway Department employees that are willing to help out with their much bigger equipment when needed. It is very much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Garner
Chairman
Steve Lafogg
2nd member
Marcus Lyons
3rd member

Conservation Commission

Cheshire has a wealth of wetlands, streams, lakes and ponds. All of these water resources provide important habitat for wildlife and serve as recreational and scenic assets. The Cheshire Reservoir (also known as Hoosac Lake), a 575-acre impoundment of the Hoosic River, is one of the town's most prominent water features. Beyond the Reservoir, Cheshire is home to extensive vegetated wetlands, forested swamps, shrub wetlands, and riparian corridors along the Hoosic River and its tributaries — all of which are vital components of our natural landscape. These diverse habitats support a wide range of plant and animal species, filter pollutants from runoff, recharge groundwater supplies, and provide natural buffers against flooding and erosion.

Protecting these areas matters not just for the environment, but for the health and quality of life of every Cheshire resident. Clean water, thriving wildlife, and resilient landscapes are assets that future generations depend on — and once lost, they are difficult or impossible to restore. Cheshire's many wetlands also help keep our rivers, lakes, ponds, and groundwater supplies clean and protect against flooding. Today, these resources are protected by state and federal laws. The Cheshire Conservation Commission works hand-in-hand with state agencies to make sure that our water resources remain intact for future generations.

The Conservation Commission consists of a three-member volunteer board, all of whom are residents of Cheshire. The Commission is chaired by Mary Summers, with members Ray Killeen and Brett Gelinas. The commission members volunteer their time to review permit applications and participate in site visits as part of the administration and implementation of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. Our Commissioners further their knowledge by attending webinars and conferences offered throughout the year. In addition, the commission works to educate and better connect with our Cheshire community. The goal is to increase our community's awareness and knowledge about the importance of and the standards within the Wetlands Protection Act, as well as to inspire all landowners to bring their land into compliance.

Our regularly scheduled monthly meetings are held at the Cheshire Community House/Town Offices, 191 Church Street, Cheshire, MA 01225. We welcome local residents to attend our meetings and learn more about the Commission and its responsibilities. Please find our meeting agendas and minutes located on the Town website at ***cheshire-ma.gov***.

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 2025.

In 2025 the Cheshire Fire Department responded to a total of 437 calls for service. These calls for service require 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.

In 2025, we continued to study the feasibility of a new public safety complex. A Public Safety Committee was formed consisting of heads of departments as well as interested townspeople. The committee has run into many obstacles as of late including issues such as; where to put a new fire/police station, building requirements, what would work for each department, and all keeping this at a reasonable cost to the town. We will continue to study this concept and as soon as we have a working plan, we will present it the town for their input.

This year, with the approval of the town, we were able to order and receive a new 2024 fire engine to replace our aging 2001 fire engine. The winning bid went to a Massachusetts company named E-One and they have taken into account the Department's needs, requests and requirements, and have come up with an apparatus that will serve the town for years to come. We have placed the new apparatus in service and it is now our front-line apparatus. It brings new technology, new safety requirements, and better construction to make this a fire engine that will be just what we need. Thank you to the residents of Cheshire for making this new fire truck a reality.

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.

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

2025 Cheshire Fire Department Roll Call

FIRE CHIEF/NREMT* — Thomas Francesconi

1st ASSISTANT CHIEF/NREMT* — Corey Swistak

2nd ASSISTANT CHIEF — Jason Mendonca

3rd ASSISTANT CHIEF — Shawn Martin

CAPTAIN — Kim Martin

CAPTAIN — Andy Heath

EMS CAPTAIN/NREMT* — Fred Balawender

FIREFIGHTERS

Christopher Biddy	Tim Garner	Timothy Kupiec	McKenna Lancia	Michael Sabato
Sofia Francesconi	Fran Gwozdz	Brent Lancia	Bryant Martin	Devon Whalen
Christopher Garner	Del Krzeminski	Brian Lancia	Zachary Morrissey	Cory Wilcox

NATIONALLY REGISTERED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS*

Fred Balawender, Mia Francesconi, Tom Francesconi, Miriam Goldfarb, Corey Swistak

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDERS

Corey McGrath, Sandy Martin

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS

Aiden Mendonca, Mark Kruzel, Jr.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Edward Gwozdz, Robert Lamb, Jr., Les Rhinemiller, George Sweet

**NREMT – Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician*

Cheshire Library Association

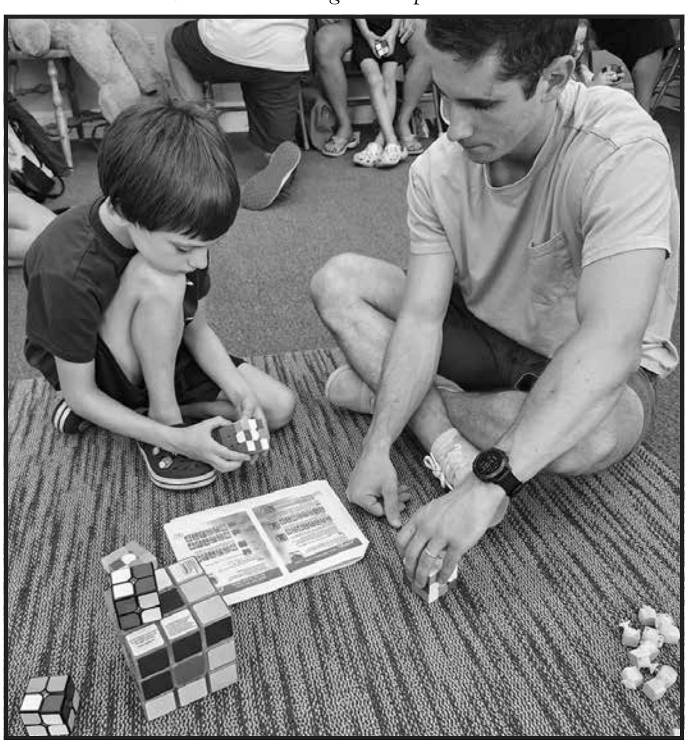
The fiscal year for the Library began with the Summer Reading Program, “Level Up.”

The kick-off for the program began the last week of June. Participants received a Cheshire Library book bag containing a pencil, bookmark, and instructions of the program.

The children kept track of their reading on a Candy Land type board, while the adults used a Monopoly board. Raffle tickets were given for the books read. The program ran for eight weeks with over 80 participants. Raffle prizes were drawn at the end of the program, as well as ice cream certificates from Diane’s Twist and participation awards.

Top & Above: Springfield Museum brought “Galaxy On The Go” with an inflatable planetarium to the Cheshire Library.

Below: The Rubix Cube Program captivates the attendees.



During the Summer Reading, the Library offered two programs, Galaxy on the Go from the Springfield Museum, and Rubix Cube Program. Both of these events were held in Adams and Cheshire. Other events were Ed The Wizard and Paint Pouring with Jill Reynolds. The last event was a Carnival Game Morning where participation certificates as well as ice cream certificates for Diane’s Twist that were earned.

Forty-five children and forty-five adults participated, earning the raffle tickets toward prizes of gift cards. Raffle prizes were drawn at the end of the program. Gift cards included Cheshire Glassworks, Whitney’s Farm Stand, Common Table, Target, Barnes & Noble and Dunkin’.

Ed the Wizard entertains a large and appreciative audience.

Programs through the year:

- Greeting cards and shadowboxes with Lorraine Faucher
- Local Authors Night
- Thursday Night Trivia
- STEM activities on the first Saturday of the month
- Townwide scavenger Hunts
- Wizards Birthday
- 3rd Annual Mini Art Show
- Take It and Make It Halloween Trick or Treat
- Library Tree for the Festival of Trees
- Book Sale
- Adult Paint Pouring with Jill Reynolds
- Family Bingo Night
- Dr. Seuss’s Birthday
- Cheshire Garden Club Talk, April 14th
- Family Game Night April 27th

Left: New Circulation Counter at the Library.

Above Left: Shadowboxes with Lorraine

Above Right: Bob Balawender & Tommy the Ox portrait

Right: Story Hour

The second floor space is used for Story Hour and Programs, STEM activities and by children to create using Legos or completing puzzles or playing board games during library hours.

Children's Early Readers, DVDs and BluRay are now located upstairs. Children's picture books will be moving upstairs in March and April after new shelving is built.

Our Library Director, Jennifer Luitjens, had initiated a second Story Hour with the Youth Center weekly and a Pop-up library at the Council on Aging once a month.

What the Library offers:

- Current best sellers fiction and non-fiction, as well as classics
- DVDs and BluRay
- Audio Books
- Public computer
- WiFi
- Interlibrary Loans (book titles not in our collection may be requested of other libraries in CWMARS through the interlibrary loans)
- Local Venue Passes, Berkshire Museum, MASS MoCA, Hancock Shaker Village, Susan B. Anthony Museum, and The Clark.
- Children's picture, early readers, children's non-fiction, young adult books, graphic novels, and games and puzzles galore!

This summer's reading theme is D.I.S.C.O.V.E.R. New Chapters in conjunction with the Adams Free Library.

A library card is a valuable resource for all ages.
And the card is FREE!!!

LIBRARY STATISTICS for calendar year 2025:

Total Items (Inventory)	11,000	Value $ 233,600
Total number of Patrons	609	
Circulation	6,268	

InterLibrary Loans:

Value to other libraries	$ 31,122
Value from other libraries	$ 28,462

We invite you to come take a look . . .

Jennifer Luitjens
Library Director

Jennifer Mirke
Fill-in Librarian

Library Hours

Monday	10:00 am to 2:00 pm	
Tuesday	Noon to 7:00 pm	Story Hour at 11 :00 am
Wednesday	Noon to 5:00 pm	
Thursday	10:00 am to 2:00 pm	

Telephone: 413 743-4746

Website: ***cheshirepubliclibrary.org***

Email: ***cheshire@CWMARS.org***

Also: Facebook and the Cheshire Chatter

The Library entry at Cheshire's Festival of Trees
"Open A Book"

Council on Aging

To the residents of Cheshire, the Council on Aging presents its annual report.

The Cheshire Council on Aging promotes programs that provide our seniors with access to nutritional meals, Holiday activities, medical education, group activities, and a social networking.

We served 6,324 meals this past year. We serve sit-down meals on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. We offer Grab N' Go Monday through Friday. We also offer 2 Homemade Meals per month that are prepared by Dawn Krutiak. This has been very well received and has increased attendance substantially with 40 or more sitting in and 15-20 to go.

Annual Cookie Swap - Standing left to right: Linda Walsh, Mal Gwozdz, Carol Francesconi, Sue Wellspeak, Faye Williamson, Betty King
Sitting left to right: Dawn Krutiak and Brenda Caufield

The Cheshire Chatter continues to gain in popularity as we recently increased the number of copies from 300 to 375. Many thanks to Faye Williamson, Peter Traub, Brenda Caufield, and all the other authors who compose articles for us.

Our van driver Althea Ossenfort has 15-20 unduplicated riders each month. The Van operates Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesdays 8-2. Suggested donation $3 one way or $5 round-trip

Mahjong Group — every Monday from 12:30 - 2:30

Fresh Swag Making Event

We offer the following services/programs.

- Wellness Calls
- Reminder Calls for events and appointments
- Blood pressure screening:
  Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 - 11:00
- Cell Phone assistance
- Bingo Every Tuesday at 12:15; $1 per card
- Quilting with Betty the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month 1:00 - 3:30; $5 donation to Cheshire Food Pantry

Valentine's Day Mini Heart Pie Event

- Foot Clinic with RN $45
- Morning Exercise; Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 -1 0:00
- Chair Yoga every Friday from 10:00 - 11:00
- Mahjong every Monday at 12:30
- Senior Haircuts; 1st Monday of every month 9:00 - 1:00; $20
- Special Holiday Entertainment
- Monthly craft projects
- Seasonal Pickleball
- 3 Outdoor Concerts
- Pitch League Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm

Lighted Snowman Craft

Mr. & Mrs. Claus (Joe and Stephanie Bordeau) with Dawn Krutiak and Maria Mendonca — came to visit the Nice ones.

- Bee Keeper Club periodic Wednesday nights; 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Ladies reading club
- Pop-up library every 2nd Wednesday of every month 10:45 am
- Seasonal Bike rentals (we have 4)
- Seasonal Shuffleboard
- Birthday/Get Well/Sympathy Card, 80-100 monthly
- Volunteer recognition

Assistance offered through these services.

- LIHEAP - fuel assistance
- SNAP
- Guest speakers including Doctors, Lawyers, etc.
- Veteran Services
- Elder Services of Berkshire County
- SHINE

The Cookie and Cocoa Crew — Maria Mendonca, Marlene Rivers, Dawn Krutiak, Brenda Caufield

- Lions Club
- Brown Bag of food, Last Monday of every month (Western Ma brown bag Food Bank)
- Cheshire Gardening Club
- Medical ride share programs shared with Adams COA

Festival of Trees — The Council on Aging Gnome Tree

The COA sincerely appreciates all of our volunteers who work so diligently to help provide services to all seniors and help make all of our services a success. We couldn't do it without them.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Francesconi
Chair

Brenda Caufield
Director

COA Members:

Peter Traub
Margaret Gwozdz
Robert Balawender
John Bianchi
Valerie Tyska
Suzanne Boyle
Doreen Aleshevich
Alternate

Department of Public Works

DEPARTMENT ROSTER

Corey McGrath	Director
Corey Swistak	Highway Foreman
Brent Lancia	Equipment Operator
Mike Sebato	Equipment Operator/Mechanic
Kirk Stanaway	Equipment Operator/Mechanic
Tom Lussier	Water Operator 1
Ed Bunn	Water Operator 2
Daniel Roy	Grounds/Facilities
Steve Hakes (Hollywood)	Grounds/Custodial
Gene Pierce	Transfer Station Attendant
Ron Race	Transfer Station Attendant
Lucan McGrath	Grounds (seasonal)
Tim Garner	On-Call Plow Operator (seasonal)
Timothy Kupiek	Grounds (seasonal)
Paul Daniels	Grounds (seasonal)

HIGHWAY

The Cheshire Highway Department successfully completed its annual tasks of culvert cleanings, roadside drainage maintenance and upgrades, street sweeping, gravel road repairs and maintenance, leaf removal, catch basin repairs and cleanings, grass mowing, tree removal and trimming, under guardrail cleaning and extensive vehicle repairs and preventative maintenance.

A total of 6 culvert pipes were replaced on Outlook Ave, Sand Mill Hill Road, Windsor Road, Wells Road and West Mountain Road.

The town took delivery of its new Tiger wheel-loader boom mower attachment. This piece of equipment offers many benefits that the traditional rear rotary mower did not, such as:

- Better cut quality for brush and grasses
- Excellent for uneven ground
- Lower risk of flying debris
- Increased vision of work area as it is a front-end loader attachment
- Most importantly increased safety for the operator and passerby's

The Highway Department utilized Chapter 90 monies to replace existing wood post bollards with steel post and rail guardrails on Windsor Road, Fred Mason Road and Henry Wood Road.

We have begun our program of replacing dull traffic signs to meet MUTCD standards. We started replacing our existing street signs with the new black on white reflective vinyl signs.

2024 brought many challenges in the winter season. I cannot thank the Highway Department crew enough for their aggressive approach to winter roads. The changing conditions often had them toggling between different treatments, procedures and applications resulting in long hours and fatigue but provided high quality road care and safe roads for the community to travel and this did not go unnoticed.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

I am extremely thankful to the Town Administrator, the DPW staff, Fire Department personnel and Police Department personnel for their dedicated approach to addressing the daily needs of the town. The town of Cheshire is fortunate to have such a hardworking group comprised of professional, well-trained and humbled individuals and I thank them for their dedication.

Respectfully submitted,

Corey McGrath
DPW Director

Historical Commission

Annual Report FY 2025

In FY 2025, the town allotted the Cheshire Historical Commission with a space in the former town hall to archive and display the Commission's historical items and documents. The Commission spent the summer and fall of 2024 carefully moving all the items from above the police station to the annex. The town employees under the DPW and the Cheshire Police aided with the handling of heavy furniture. All the Commission members took part, and we were able to successfully organize and safely move everything. We made our final move to the Old Town Hall former clerk's office. We successfully have stored and archived all our materials and are able to display them at the Atheneum. Special thanks to Jared Martin and Barry Emery for creating and expanding our digital archive. The Commission also bought acid free boxes to store historical documents and photos. The Cheshire Atheneum cleaned and painted by the town was prepared and had its grand opening to the public during the Memorial Day weekend May 2025.

The Commission, with the support of the Cheshire Board of Selectmen, composed a letter to the Berkshire Museum in September 2024. The letter was a request to take ownership of a "bull's eye" piece of glass made by the Cheshire Crown Glass Company from 1814. The Cheshire company was incorporated by some of the town's citizens including Darius Brown, John Leland, Jr., John Hunt, John Brown, and Ambrose Kasson in the early 19th century. J.B. Dean had donated the piece of glass prior to Cheshire having anywhere to display such an item.

The Commission also entered the Cheshire Festival of Trees and thanks to the vision and efforts of LiseAnn Karandisecky took first place for a historical tree which was a tree decorated as a setting reflective of the mid-20th century family Christmas tree.

The Commission was allowed to start planning for the content for the new kiosks bought through grant monies to be installed in 2026 at Farnams Crossing and the boat launch area on route 8.

The Commission started creating letters and searching for grants to help restore the Stafford Hill monument.

The Commission would like to offer a special thanks to Sandra Sloane. The Commission partnered with Sandra for the opening of the Cheshire Atheneum. Sandra is a Cheshire citizen and historian of our Veterans. Sandra used the back room in the Atheneum to honor these Veterans for our Memorial Day weekend opening. The Commission was honored and humbled to have her incredible work displayed.

The Commission continues to accept historical donations and can ensure their safety with our new Atheneum. All historical donations can be given to a member or to the town offices.

Submitted by:

Jennifer McGrath DeGrenier

Commission Members

Jennifer DeGrenier Chairperson	Jared Martin Member
LiseAnn Karandisecky Member	Tom Francesconi Member
Chris Flynn Member	Corey McGrath Alternate

Barry Emery Cheshire Historian/Member Emeritus

Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District

CY 2025

**What is the
Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District?**

The NBSWMD was established in 1988 through legislation passed by the Massachusetts General Court. By forming the solid waste district, the small municipalities in Northern Berkshire County have been able to pool resources and obtain professional waste management services to conduct recycling and outreach education programs, hazardous, and special recycling collections. The 14 member-towns that comprise NBSWMD include Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Dalton, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Monroe, New Ashford, Peru, Savoy, Windsor, and Williamstown.

Linda Cernik is the Program Director, and each town appoints a representative to serve on the NBSWMD Board. Board Officers for 2025 were: Joseph Szczepaniak Jr., Chair (Lanesborough); Doug McNally, Vice Chair (Windsor); and Barbara Belisle (Savoy), Treasurer.

Services - In 2025, NBSWMD Towns benefitted from the following services:

- Annual transfer station compliance inspections by a third-party Inspector from MassDEP pursuant to 310 CMR 19.018.
- Bid administration for the hauling and processing of waste and recyclables resulting in awarding of a three-year contract with Casella Waste Systems Inc.
- Coordination of special collections that are open to all 14 member-towns.
- Management of transfer station recyclables including collection, hauling, and recycling of tires, electronic waste, universal waste, textiles, scrap metal, books, and swap shops.
- Outreach to local schools promoting the MassDEP "Green Team" educational program.
- Submittal of member-town MassDEP annual recycling and solid waste surveys, grant applications to the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP), and all reporting.
- Facilitating waste reduction and reuse via textile collection.

Special Collections and Reuse Opportunities

- Hazardous Waste: Over 150 Residential households had the opportunity to attend a comprehensive Household Hazardous Waste collection in April of 2025. This enabled residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, oil-based paints, oil, pesticides, and other products.
- Bulky Waste and Electronics: Collections were held in four communities to collect and recycle electronics, scrap metal, carpets, furniture, and other miscellaneous materials.
- Shredding: Confidential paper shredding days were held in Cheshire, Williamstown, and Dalton to offer residents a safe way to recycle secure documents. Donations that were collected from these events benefited the Town of Cheshire Food Pantry and Council on Aging, Town of Williamstown Council on Aging, and Town of Dalton Council on Aging.
- Compost bins: The District also offered member-town residents subsidized Home Composting bins, allowing food waste, leaves, and brush to be composted at home.
- Northern Berkshire Solid Waste "year of giving" donated to the following organizations through our 2025 events: Town of Adams Scholarship fund, Town of Cheshire Food Pantry, Town of Cheshire Council on Aging, Town of Dalton Council on Aging, Town of Williamstown Council on Aging, Town of Lanesborough Council on Aging, and Town of Clarksburg Volunteer Fire Department. Total Donations were $4,355.00
- Visit our website at ***www.nbswmd.com*** for a list of all of our Special Collections and events, and to view our 2026 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle guide and resources.

Management, Administration and Community Assessments

Day -to-day program operations of the NBSWMD are managed by Program Director Linda Cernik. Monthly Board meetings are a combination of in-person, hybrid, and remote.

The NBSWMD has an annual operations budget that is approved by the District's Board of Commissioners, and Town assessments are based on the current census of 2020. The combined assessment for all fourteen towns was $135,630. The assessments are for operating costs, special collections, subsidized Home Composting units, six universal waste collections sites, all outreach and educational services, inspectional services under 310.CMR.19.018, and professional Waste Management Services.

Grant Funding Awarded to Towns

In 2026, NBSWMD member-towns received grants from the DEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) totaling $64,826 to further enhance recycling programming.

Waste Diversion through Recycling

During the past year, the NBSWMD member-towns collectively diverted 880 tons of Dual Stream recyclable materials to the Casella Waste Systems, Inc., Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Auburn, MA, MRF.

NEW CY 2025

The Town of Dalton started a Food Waste Diversion program at their Town Transfer station. With a grant obtained through Sustainable Materials Recovery Programs, under Equipment Drop-Off , the Town was awarded a $6,000 grant. They have contracted with Tommy's Compost for the food pick-up and composting at a local farm.

The Town of Cheshire installed a paper compactor using some Grant funds, Sustainable Materials Recovery Program, under Recycling Dividends Grants funds. This will allow the Town to reduce the number of hauls per year to our recycling facility. Paper and cardboard is sorted and bailed at the Cheshire Casella Waste Facility and then sent out to a buyer. Prior to the compactor, the Transfer station attendants had to hand-pack approximately 2 tons into the container before a swap-out. Now, with the compactor, the average is 5 to 6 tons before swapping out. This helps reduce the number of hauls monthly, down to one per month.

The Town of Peru obtained a grant through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant program, under Equipment Drop-Off , for a Swap Shop. The value of the grant was $6,000. This program helps divert items from the waste stream to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle of materials. Residents can donate or shop at no cost and enjoy Reuse.

The Town of Savoy obtained a grant through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant program, under Equipment Drop-Off, for a new Swap shop. The value of the grant was $6,000. This program helps divert items from the waste stream to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle materials. Residents can donate or shop at no cost and enjoy Reuse.

The Town of Windsor started a Food Waste Diversion program at their Town Transfer station. With a grant obtained through Sustainable Materials Recovery Programs, Recycling Dividends grant program, the Town purchased a Bear-proof cage area for the storage of the toters for the Food Collection. They have contracted Second Chance Composting Services.

Shared Services

Shared services are CHARM recycling materials that are prohibited from being disposed of in household trash, Waste Ban regulations 310.CMR.19.017. These services can be located under recycling resources at ***www.nbswmd.com***, for residential use only. You don't need a transfer station permit to access shared services, such as Universal Waste, Tire, the Mattress and Box Spring hub, or to utilize our special events in 2026. No permit is required. See all details on our website.

Thank you to: all of the Town Transfer Station Attendants, the heart of the Facilities for maintaining compliance, excellent customer service, and understanding the importance of the Board of Health; the DPWs; all of the District's contracted haulers and processors; all of the District volunteers; and the residents of all the member-towns for your continued support of waste reduction, composting, and recycling.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cernik
NBSWMD
Director of Programs

Board of Health

Annual Report

During the past year, the Cheshire Board of Health continued to oversee and support a variety of public health, safety, and environmental services for the Town of Cheshire. The Board maintained its responsibility for the operation and oversight of the town's transfer station, ensuring that waste disposal and recycling services were conducted in a safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible manner for residents.

In an effort to strengthen code enforcement and public health services, the Board of Health entered into a contract with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. Through this partnership, the town now receives professional assistance with housing code enforcement, septic system inspections, permitting, licensing, and fee administration. This collaboration has improved the town's ability to respond to resident needs in a timely manner while ensuring compliance with state and local regulations.

The Board remains committed to protecting the health and well-being of the community and will continue working to improve services, maintain regulatory compliance, and support responsible growth within the Town of Cheshire.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheshire Board of Health
Christopher Garner,
Chairman
Michael Kruszyna,
Member
Brian Trudeau,
Member

Police Department

To the Board of Selectmen and the residents of the Town of Cheshire, as the Interim Chief of Police, I am submitting my annual report for the fiscal year 2025.

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 3,456 calls this year. A brief breakdown on calls is at the end of this report.

The Department's joint venture with the Adams Police Department for our Animal Control Officer, Kim Witek, is working out well. Together we received over 109 logged calls for service that our Officers responded to and called ACO Witek if needed. We appreciate her service to the Town.

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 – 19,979.00 was secured during the fiscal year in grant funding, which allowed us to purchase three new radar units and one new lidar unit. It also provided funding for extra traffic enforcement patrols to utilize the new radar units and slow people down in trouble spots. We continue to work on available funding and have been approved for Road Safety Grant, and are working on a grant to upgrade the current Body Worn Camera System. At the annual Town Meeting in June of 2025, the residents approved the purchase of a new cruiser, and as of the writing of this report, we have yet to take delivery of the new car.

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. 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 the Police Department 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. We continue to be involved with community events throughout Town such as National Night Out, Cruz-Nite, Hoe Down festival, as well as assisting our Fire Department at some of their events as needed

I would like to thank the members of your Cheshire Police Department, for your outstanding dedication and professionalism to the residents of our town, and those who pass through it.

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, Northern Berkshire EMS, 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 appreciated and outstanding support.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Garner
Interim Chief of Police

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2025

Breakdown of Calls

Assist Other Departments	65
Arrests	16
MV Citations Issued	117
Criminal Complaints Filed	18
Written Warnings Issued	153
Arrest on Warrants	2
911 Calls Accidental / Abandoned	73
Breaking and Entering Calls	18
Alarm Calls	42
Disabled Motor Vehicles	74
Domestic Disturbance / Issues	22
Larceny / Forgery Calls	13
Medical Calls	260
Property Damage Only Calls	53
Motor Vehicle Stops	915
Motor Vehicle Accidents	30
Suspicious Activity	41
Stolen Vehicles	3

This is a brief summary of the many calls our Department has responded to over the year, 3456 total calls.

Returned Fines & Fees to the Town of Cheshire

Police Revolving Fund	$ 1,990.00
Registry of MV Infractions	3,427.50
Pistol Permits	4,250.00
Report Fees	455.00
Detail Fees	12,509.85
Parking Fines	505.00
Total Returned Fines and Fees to the Town Generated by the Cheshire Police Department	**$ 23,136.50**

CHESHIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT ROSTER FY 2025

CHIEF OF POLICE
MICHAEL J. ALIBOZEK

SERGEANT
DAVID TARJICK

OFFICER
CLAUDE JEAN-CALIXTE

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 MALLET

TRAFFIC
SAM HUNGATE

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, 2024 – June 30, 2025

The Board of Water Commissioners are pleased to submit their Annual Report for the year 2025.

The Board of Water Commissioners meet at the Cheshire Community House and Town Office's Water Department location every other Tuesday at 2:30 p.m.

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

We work very closely with the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) to provide the highest quality water at the most efficient cost to our users.

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 responsibilities.

Listed below are the projects completed by the Water Department in 2024 / 2025

- Consumer Confidence Report; compiled and delivered to water users.
- Statistical Report; completed and submitted to Mass DEP.
- Completed all mandatory water quality testing including lead, copper, arsenic, and nitrates.
- Leak Detection (done yearly with prowler).
- Monitored Water Usage through Drought Conditions.
- Located and repaired four water main breaks.
- Annual fire hydrant flushing.
- Completed North Street main replacement.
- Repaired fire hydrants.
- Lead service line inventory and replacement plan completed.
- Repared 8 main leaks/breaks.
- Completed sanitary survey with DEP to remain in compliance.

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

James Zepka
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, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Number of Permits	98
Number of Inspections	152
Total Fees Collected	$ 20,238.00

Respectfully submitted

George Sweet
Wire Inspector

Les Rhinemiller
Assistant Wire Inspector

Woodlands Partnership

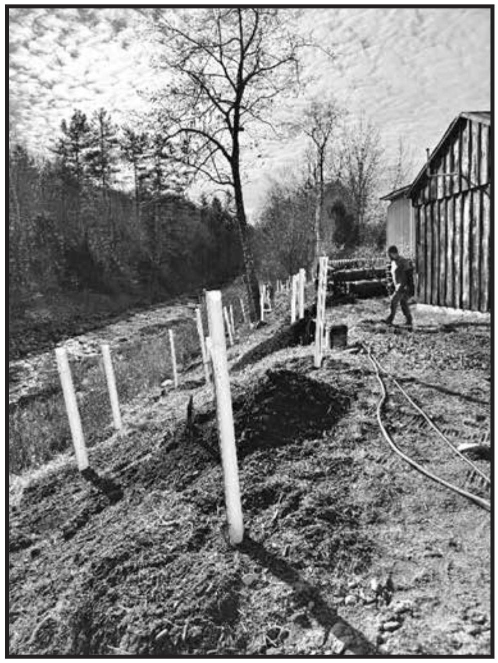
2025 Annual Report

From planting trees in Hawley to studying the impacts of recreation in state forests on public safety services, below are some highlights of the Partnership's recent work.

- A state grant funded a Tourism & Municipal Public Safety Study by the Collins Center in June identifying insufficient staffing, need for joint equipment purchase by towns, regional trainings and improved signage at back-country trails to address recreation impacts on local emergency response.

- A $25,000 grant from the Catalyst Fund of the Network for Landscape Conservation allowed the Woodlands Partnership to hire a consultant who completed a three-year fundraising plan which recommends exploring non-profit status, non-government funding, and a list of grant prospects.

- A $75,000 state grant titled *Voices for the Forest* awarded to the Ex. Com. of the Woodlands Partnership will fund production of a video series and school field trips focused on forest ecology and stewardship, programs for woodland owners, and the *How Do Forests Grow?* webinar series.



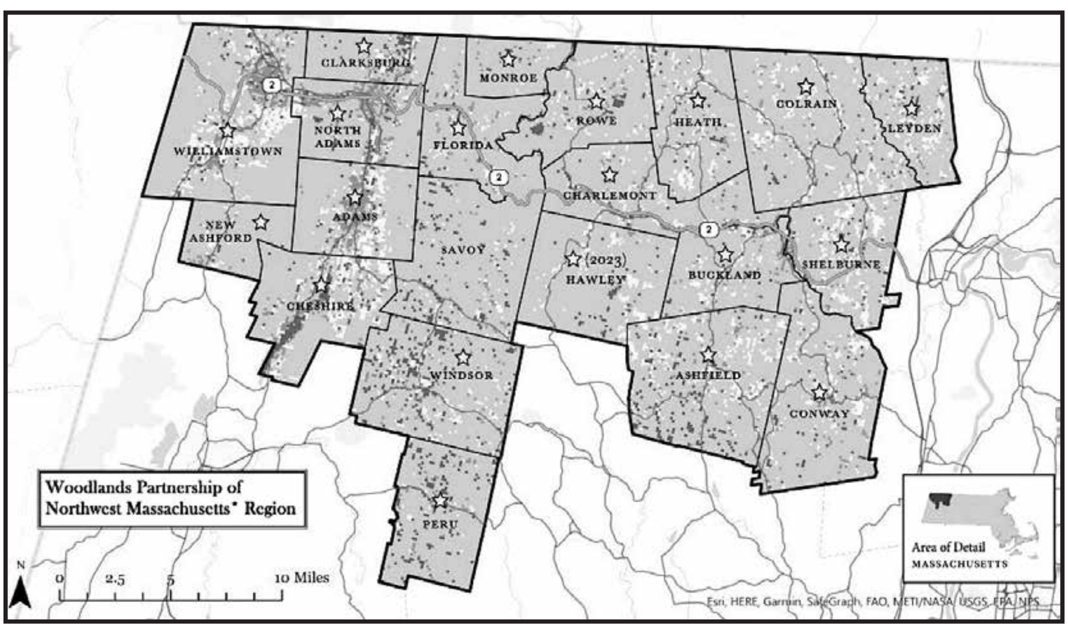
Behind the Hawley Town Garage, volunteers plant trees with deer protection tubes on the banks of the Chickley River.

- The Woodlands Partnership Board is working with an Indigenous-focused consultant and the Regional Planning Agencies to conduct research and contribute components of a feasibility study assessing the unique qualifications of the 21-town Northwest Massachusetts region to be designated a Heritage Area of the National Park Service. After Board review, the draft report will be shared for public feedback in 2026.

- The Partnership hosted State Auditor Diana DiZoglio and local officials at an April 7 public media event in Windsor highlighting inequities and reform proposals for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) on state land.

- In November, US Forest Service grant funds for riparian restoration supported local volunteers in planting 72 native and climate-adapted trees with deer protection tubes on the banks of the Chickley River behind the Hawley Town Garage, the site of severe flooding from storm Irene in 2011.

WoodlandsPartnership.org



The Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts is a public body with a Board representing a 21-town region with local, regional, state, and federal partners working on forest conservation, sustainable economy & rural municipal stability.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Berkshire SS.
Monday, August 12, 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, Kathleen Levesque, Patrick Pettit, Michael Biagini, Jeffrey Chaput
Town Administrator:	Jennifer Morse
Town Counsel:	Donna MacNicol – MacNicol and Tombs

The Town of Cheshire's Special Town Meeting was held on Monday, August 12, 2024, at the Cheshire Community House, located at 191 Church Street.

Elizabeth King and Judy Serafin began voter check-in at 6:30 PM. Each voter received a yellow voter card and a YES/NO secret ballot tear-off card.

In attendance were Sixty-seven (67) voters and four (4) 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.

Town Clerk Flynn read the August 12, 2024 Special Town Election Results: 496 votes were cast.

Question 1
regarding 2 ½ Override for HVRSD FY25 Budget:
YES (141) / NO (355) / Blank (0)

Question 2
regarding Police Cruiser Debt Exclusion:
YES (228) / NO (267) / Blank (1)

Question 3
regarding Fire Truck Debt Exclusion:
YES (296) / NO (200) / Blank (0)

Question 4
regarding Uncombining Treasurer/Collector Position:
YES (230) / NO (261) / Blank (5)

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: **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 Vote	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**

An amended motion was made by Chair McGrath -
I move that the Town Vote to raise and appropriate $2,948,462 to fund Hoosac Valley Regional School District, congruent with FY24's Budget as approved

– Seconded by J. Levesque.

Discussion: HVRSD Business Manager, Erika Snyder, stated that if Cheshire voted yes on flat leveling the budget based on last year's numbers, the School District would have to bring it to a district-wide vote with Adams to request funding for both Town's portions; totaling over $600,000.

Voters asked for clarification as to what they are voting on and what the next steps would be in either scenario. M. Francesconi explained that a 2 ½ override would not be revisited again as a funding mechanism for the school. The Selectboard would send the approved amount to the school, and they would need to reduce their FY25 Budget to meet it, or present the full budget again to be voted on district-wide. If the district-wide vote passes in favor of the FY25 proposed budget, the Town of Cheshire would need to fund the remaining balance through Stabilization. If the Budget does not pass at the district-wide vote, the school would need to operate on a 1/12 budget, using last year's approved budget total, until an amount can be approved. She also informed that because the Police Cruiser Debt Exclusion vote failed, the $67,000 proposed did not apply to the levy limit, that amount would now need to be taken from Stabilization to meet Cheshire's FY25 Budget.

A voter requested the Finance Committee's recommendation. J. Tremblay stated that at the last Finance meeting 3 members were in favor of fully funding HVRSD FY25 Budget, 1 was opposed, 1 abstained, and 1 was absent; he personally supports Superintendent, Aaron Dean, and believes the School Committee did all they could to have a reasonable budget increase this year. K. Levesque stated that she was the member opposed to supporting the Budget because she views it as top heavy with administration and for years the School keeps asking for more, and the Towns keep giving more, until now; now the school says they will have to cut teachers, but she does not feel like this is the solution to the increase problem, and they should look elsewhere for cuts.

M. Francesconi stated that the Board of Selectmen supported a 2 ½ override vote to support students but does not support using Stabilization funds because there are so many things the Town needs to address that are concerning.

W. Flynn stated that any money that is in Stabilization also makes money on interest.

Chair McGrath motioned for the vote to be done via secret ballot – Motion Seconded.

Card Vote **59 in Favor / 5 Opposed: Motion Carried, Majority**

Town Clerk Flynn opened the secret ballot box for the audience revealing it was empty, and then explained how the secret ballot process would be done. Moderator Francesconi requested that everyone clear from the surrounding tables, and the voters then lined up to cast their ballots using the YES/NO cards provided. Sargeant David Tarjick and Registrar Betty King counted the votes in front of the audience. Moderator Francesconi reported the results.

Secret Ballot Vote **YES (47) / NO (20) Motion Carried, Majority**

Article 2: To do and transact any other business that may property come before this meeting, or take any other action in relation thereto.

With no further business to come before the meeting, 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 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Whitney E. Flynn
Cheshire Town Clerk
August 24, 2024

Berkshire SS.
A true copy, attest: ______________________
Cheshire Town Clerk

Cheshire Special Town Election Results - *August 12, 2024*

Precinct 1 of 1 **OFFICIAL**

Total Scanned Voters: 496

Question 1

2 1/2 Override

Yes	141
No	355
Blanks	0

Question 2

Police Cruiser Debt Exclusion

Yes	228
No	267
Blanks	1

Question 3

Fire Truck Debt Exclusion

Yes	296
No	200
Blanks	0

Question 4

Uncombine Treasurer/Collector

Yes	230
No	261
Blanks	5

Massachusetts State Primary - *September 3, 2024*

Total Scanned Voters: 347

Democrat Ballots Cast: 260

SENATOR IN CONGRESS

Elizabeth Ann Warren	242
Write In	1
Blanks	17

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FIRST DISTRICT

Richard E. Neal	249
Write In	0
Blanks	11

COUNCILLOR EIGHTH DISTRICT

Tara J. Jacobs	232
Write In	0
Blanks	28

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT BERKSHIRE

Paul W. Mark	247
Write In	0
Blanks	13

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT BERKSHIRE

John Barrett III	243
Write In	2
Blanks	15

CLERK OF COURTS BERKSHIRE

Lisa A. Denault-Viale	234
Write In	1
Blanks	25

REGISTER OF DEEDS BERKSHIRE

Maria T. Ziemba	244
Write In	0
Blanks	16

Republican Ballots Cast: 85

SENATOR IN CONGRESS

Robert J. Antonellis	23
Ian Cain	7
John Deaton	54
Write In	0
Blanks	1

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FIRST DISTRICT

Write In	9
Blanks	76

COUNCILLOR EIGHTH DISTRICT

Write In	4
Blanks	81

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT BERKSHIRE

David Rosa	67
Write In	1
Blanks	17

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT BERKSHIRE

Write In	5
Blanks	80

CLERK OF COURTS BERKSHIRE

Write In	4
Blanks	81

REGISTER OF DEEDS BERKSHIRE

Write In	6
Blanks	79

Libertarian Ballots Cast: 2

SENATOR IN CONGRESS

Write In	1
Blanks	1

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FIRST DISTRICT

Write In	1
Blanks	1

COUNCILLOR EIGHTH DISTRICT

Write In	0
Blanks	2

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT BERKSHIRE

Write In	0
Blanks	2

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT BERKSHIRE

Write In	1
Blanks	1

CLERK OF COURTS BERKSHIRE

Write In	1
Blanks	1

REGISTER OF DEEDS BERKSHIRE

Write In	1
Blanks	1

Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee
Districtwide Town Meeting Minutes - *September 30, 2024*

Monday, September 30, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.
Hoosac Valley High School - Auditorium
125 Savoy Road, Cheshire, MA

PRESENT:

Superintendent Aaron Dean, School Committee Members, Members of Adams/Cheshire Selectboards, Community Members from Adams/Cheshire, Moderator Tom Bernard, District Counsel.

Moderator Tom Bernard called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Tom thanked everyone for being here.

Moderator Bernard asked anyone recording either audio or video to please identify themselves - Tammy Daniels from iberkshires and Sten Spinella from the Berkshire Eagle.

There are 234 Adams Voters in the room and 148 Cheshire Voters in the room - a total of 382 voters - a motion requiring a simple majority needs 192 votes to pass. Moderator Bernard asked that anyone that was issued a non-voter card please identify yourselves by raising your card.

Moderator introduced the staff from Adams and Cheshire who coordinated the logistics and procedures for tonight's meeting - Adams: Town Clerk Haley Meczywor, Elaine Melillo, Kelly Rice, Kelly Martinek, and Chrissy Satko; Cheshire: Town Clerk Whitney Flynn, Lorraine Faucher, Elizabeth King, Celia Ferro, Police Chief Mike Alibozek, and Officer Timothy Garner.

Moderator also introduced the S.C. members - Adam Emerson, Chairman, Erin Milne, Vice Chair, Mike Henault, John Duval, Andy Przystanski, Robert Tetlow, and Fred Lora.

Chair Adam Emerson gave a brief statement reporting that the committee strongly endorses the proposed fiscal year 2025 budget.

Moderator Bernard stated Superintendent Dean will be presenting a brief presentation regarding the budget.

Cathy Foster objected stating the presentation is outside the scope of the warrant article.

Moderator ruled it within the purview of the meeting.

Cathy appeals the decision.

Discussion took place with Moderator, Superintendent and District Counsel.

Moderator - the objection was that the Superintendent's remarks were out of scope by the text of the warrant, Moderator states that it is consistent with the laws and rules it out of order, Superintendent may proceed.

Cathy Foster - presentation outside of the warrant

Moderator rules it out of order.

Moderator reported that Cathy has motioned and seconded it, and he ruled this out of order and the Superintendent may proceed with his presentation.

Superintendent Dean presented a brief presentation on the budget and discussed the 5 year assessment numbers (Cheshire): the 5-year enrollment splits: budget increase breakdown; what have we done to support our schools; our impact on growth and what impact would a $600,000 cut have on our district. See attached budget presentation.

Moderator reported that we have 2 additional Adams Voters 236 and one additional Cheshire Voter 149 for 385.

Anyone wishes to speak on the warrant article - each speaker must speak their name, address, and has 2 minutes to speak. Moderator went over the rules. This article pertains to the school district budget only.

The warrant dated 8-26-24 was posted with the provisions of MGL, Chapter 71, Section 61- Moderator read the warrant twice:

Article 1: To see if the Towns of Adams and Cheshire will vote to approve the $22,481,719 budget for the fiscal year 2025 proposed by the Hoosac Valley Regional School District School Committee, or take any action relative thereto.

A yes vote accepts the article and a no vote rejects the article.

Motion from Adam Emerson, Chair and second from Erin Milne, Vice Chair to accept the warrant.

It is moved and accepted:

To see if the Towns of Adams and Cheshire will vote to approve the $22,481,719 budget for the fiscal year 2025 proposed by the Hoosac Valley Regional School District School Committee, or take any action relative thereto.

The floor is now open for discussion - No Discussions

Motion made to move the article - seconded

Any further discussions -

All in favor, Aye, the Aye's have it we will move the article.

Motion as to form of vote: Motion made to have secret ballot - seconded - No discussion

All in favor - voice vote was very close

Proceed to a standing vote - the counters will go section by section - Moderator reported to stand raise your card - voting in favor a secret ballot - 385 votes tonight - simple majority 193 votes.

223 cast in the affirmative - this will be a secret ballot.

Community member approached mic for discussion - discussion is ruled out of order, past the time for discussion, had opportunity for discussion earlier when opened the floor for discussion.

Moderator explained the voting procedure.

Article you are voting on is:

To see if the Towns of Adams and Cheshire will vote to approve the $22,481,719 budget for the fiscal year 2025 proposed by the Hoosac Valley Regional School District School Committee, or take any action relative thereto.

Yes vote accepts the article and no vote rejects the article

193 votes are needed to pass the article.

378 votes were cast
160 votes opposed - 218 votes affirmed
the simple majority of 193 votes needed having been met the motion hereby passes.

Motion to adjourn - seconded - all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Aaron Dean
Superintendent

Lisa Bresett
Recording Secretary

Hoosac Valley Regional School District Impact on Local Communities: $108,001 More Than Last Year

5-YEAR ASSESSMENT NUMBERS - CHESHIRE

	MLC		Over MLC		Transportation		Capital		OVERALL TOTAL W/IN LEVY	
	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
FY25	**5.87%**	**$ 130,286**	0.13%	$ 535	1.75%	$ 2,323	9.17%	$ 17,390	**4.83%**	**$ 133.144**
FY24	3.03%	65,208	-5.11%	-21,882	-8.42%	-12,231	-12.05%	-25,999	0.72%	19,717
FY23	**5.76%**	**117,263**	6.51%	26,166	4.65%	6,458	1.41%	2,995	**5.80%**	**150,036**
FY22	-2.55%	-53,351	11.26%	40,655	-8.62%	-13,099	-15.54%	-39,132	-1.04%	-27,146
FY21	1.42%	$ 29,212	19.92%	$ 59,980	17.28%	$ 22,379	6.69%	$ 15,788	4.66%	$ 116,437

5-YEAR ENROLLMENT SPLITS

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
ADAMS	736	772	746	774	729
CHESHIRE	270	235	236	220	224
TOTAL	**1,006**	**1,007**	**982**	**994**	**953**
	73.16%	76.66%	75.97%	77.87%	76.50%
	26.84%	23.34%	24.03%	22.13%	23.50%

5-YEAR ASSESSMENT NUMBERS - ADAMS

	MLC		Over MLC		Transportation		Capital		OVERALL TOTAL W/IN LEVY	
	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
FY25	2.83%	$ 111,752	-7.37%	$ -105,321	-5.88%	$ -27,523	-3.14%	$ -21,440	-0.36%	$ -21,092
FY24	4.14%	156,836	5.61%	75,829	1.93%	8,851	-1.96%	-13,651	3.66%	206,543
FY23	3.62%	132,485	2.49%	32,867	0.70%	3,188	-1.02%	-7,195	2.63%	161,345
FY22	-5.32%	-205,462	34.08%	335,437	10.12%	41,911	6.11%	40,532	3.24%	171,888
FY21	2.83%	$ 106,173	4.05%	$ 38,303	1.754%	$ 7,139	-2.78%	$ -18,938	3.07%	$ 157,763

What Would Cheshire's Assessment Be if the MLC Wasn't Increased?

	MLC		Over MLC		Transportation		Capital		Overall Total W/IN LEVY	
	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
CHESHIRE FY25	0.00%	$ 0	14.145%	$ 57,425	1.75%	$ 2,323	9.17%	$ 17,390	2.166%	$ 59,748
ADAMS FY25	2.83%	$ 111,752	-7.37%	$ -31,795	-5.88%	$ -27,523	-3.14%	$ -21,440	0.089%	$ 52,304

Budget Increase Breakdown

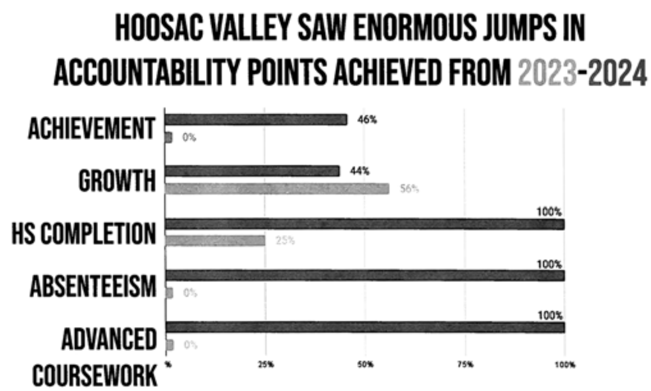
*242 choice, charter, and tuition students whom we are financially responsible for

School Choice	$ 175,000	(158)
Charter	296,653	(76)
Special Education Tuition	32,323	(8)
TOTAL	**503,976**	
Capital Expenses - Offset by E&D	170,000	
Total Increase	**1,096,525**	
242 Students for whom we are financially responsible	503,976	
Maintenance, offset by E&D - No impact to towns	170,000	
Benefits 990 students that come through our doors	$ 422,769	
**Likewise a $600,000 decrease only negatively impacts OUR students		

What We Have Done

- Created systems for student support
  - Deans, school counselors, OH partnership, student support staff
- Created systems for curriculum support and development
  - 5-year review cycle. pilot and purchase of HQIM
- Created systems for staff development, feedback, and evaluation - Developed coaching cycles, common planning and job embedded PD to develope staff capacity
- Created work with Pathways, implemented applied learning curriculum, expanded Pre-K

Impact of Our Work



How Would A $600,000 Cut Impact HVRSD?

- Mid-year layoffs to employees
- Mid-year restructuring to larger class sizes
- Cuts to extracurriculars, including athletics
- Capital expenses delayed
- Unable to invest in technology for students and employees
- Unable to purchase new high-quality math curriculum
- Eliminating staff resources, PD, and internal capacity for the work of improving construction
- Eliminating student support systems that aren't legally mandated

2024 Progress Toward Improvement Targets												
Indicator	All students (Non-high school grades)			Lowest performing students (Non-high school grades)			All students (High school grades)			Lowest performing students (High school grades)		
	Points earned	Total possible points	Weight %	Points earned	Total possible points	Weight %	Points earned	Total possible points	Weight %	Points earned	Total possible points	Weight %
ACHIEVEMENTS												
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												
4-year cohort graduation rate	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-
Extended engagement rate	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-
Annual dropout rate	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-
High School Completion Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**12**	**12**	**20.0**	**-**	**-**	**-**
PROGRESS TOWARD ATTAINING ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY												
English Language Proficiency Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ADDITIONAL INDICATORS												
Chronic absenteeism	4	4	-	4	4	-	4	4	-	-	-	-
Advanced coursework completion	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-
Additional Indicators Total	**4**	**4**	**10.0**	**4**	**4**	**10.0**	**8**	**8**	**10.0**	**-**	**-**	**-**
WEIGHTED TOTAL	5.4	10.3	-	5.4	7.6	-	6.3	10.7	-	-	-	-
Percentage of possible points	52%		-	71%		-	59%		-	-	-	-
Percentage of possible points by gradespan	62% Weight of non-high school results: 74%						59% Weight of high school results: 26%					
2024 Annual criterion-referenced target percentage	61%											

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Berkshire SS.
Monday, October 21, 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: N/A

The Town of Cheshire's Special Town Meeting was held on Monday, October 21, 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 Thirty-Nine (39) voters and two (2) guests.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Moderator Francesconi.

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.

CHESHIRE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
FISCAL YEAR 2025

Article 1: **HOOSAC VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**
To see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER FROM THE STABILIZATION ACCOUNT** an additional sum of **One Hundred Fifty Thousand, Five Hundred Thirty Four Dollars ($150,534)** to pay its assessed share of **Hoosac Valley Regional School District Fiscal Year 2025** budget or take any action in relation thereto.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

2/3 Vote Required

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

Discussion: S. McGrath explained what a yes vote or a no vote would mean for the passing/failing of the Article.

Card Vote **39 in favor, 0 opposed; Motion Carried**

Article 2: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to file special legislation as follows:

Notwithstanding any general or special law or by-law to the contrary, all acts and proceedings taken by the Town of Cheshire preceding and related to the August 12, 2024 Special Election and all actions take pursuant thereto are hereby ratified, validated and confirmed notwithstanding any omissions in procedure or process with respect to the posting of the Special Election Warrant and related voter information.

And further, to authorize the Selectboard to approve any amendments to this Special Legislation recommended by the legislature or counsel.

Said act to take effect upon passage.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: S. McGrath explained that the Warrant for August 12, 2024, was not posted correctly.

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Transfer Station Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2025 due to a clerical error on the Annual Town Meeting warrant, or take any other action in relation thereto.

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	**167,169.00**
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	**167,169.00**

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

Article 4: To see if the Town will authorize the **TRANSFER** from the SPECIAL BUILDING REPAIRS (01-192-5240-0000) account the sum of **$268.52** for the purpose of paying invoices from Fiscal Year 2024, or take any action in relation thereto.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

9/10 Vote Required

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

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

Article 5: To see if the Town will authorize the **TRANSFER** from the Highway Department Repair Town Road (01-420-5334-0000) account the sum of **$9,762.50** for the purpose of paying invoices from Fiscal Year 2024, or take any action in relation thereto.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

9/10 Vote Required

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

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous**

ARTICLE 6:

Article 6: To transact any other business that may properly come before this meeting, or take any other action in relation thereto.

With no further business to come before the meeting, 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 7:10 PM.

Berkshire SS.

A True Copy, Attest:_____________________________

Whitney E. Flynn
Cheshire Town Clerk
October 22, 2024

State Election Results - *November 5, 2024*

Precinct 1 of 1 CHESHIRE   Total Votes Cast: 1,954

ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT *(vote for ONE)*

AYYADURAI and ELLIS	3	*Unenrolled*
DE LA CRUZ and GARCIA	0	*Unenrolled*
HARRIS and WALZ	1,031	*Democrat*
OLIVER and TER MAAT	6	*Libertarian*
STEIN and CABALLERO-ROCA	8	*Unenrolled*
TRUMP and VANCE	876	*Republican*
All Others	15	
Blanks	14	
Total Votes Cast	**1,954**	

SENATOR IN CONGRESS *(Vote for ONE)*

ELIZABETH ANN WARREN	1,003	*Democrat*
JOHN DEATON	890	*Republican*
All Others	1	
Blanks	60	
Total Votes Cast	**1,954**	

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS (1ST DISTRICT) *(vote for ONE)*

RICHARD E. NEAL	1,052	*Democrat*
NADIA DONYA MILLERON	717	*Unenrolled*
All Others	4	
Blanks	181	
Total Votes Cast	**1,954**	

COUNCILLOR (8TH DISTRICT) *(vote for ONE)*

TARA J. JACOBS	1,340	*Democrat*
All Others	13	
Blanks	601	
Total Votes Cast	**1,954**	

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT (Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Hampshire District) *(vote for ONE)*

PAUL W. MARK	1,068	*Democrat*
DAVID ROSA	738	*Republican*
All Others	0	
Blanks	148	
Total Votes Cast	**1,954**	

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT (1st Berkshire District) *(vote for ONE)*

JOHN BARRETT, III	1,431	*Democrat*
All Others	15	
Blanks	508	
Total Votes Cast	**1,954**	

CLERK OF COURTS (BERKSHIRE COUNTY) *(vote for ONE)*

LISA A. DENAULT-VIALE	1,392	*Democrat*
All Others	14	
Blanks	548	
Total Votes Cast	**1,954**	

REGISTER OF DEEDS (Berkshire Northern District) *(vote for ONE)*

MARIA T. ZIEMBA	1,483	*Democrat*
All Others	12	
Blanks	459	
Total Votes Cast	**1,954**	

QUESTION 1 (AUDIT THE LEGISLATURE)

YES	1,183
NO	599
Blanks	172
Total Votes Cast	**1,954**

QUESTION 2 (STUDENTS HAVE SKILLS THAT MCAS REPLACES)

YES	1,223
NO	663
Blanks	68
Total Votes Cast	**1,954**

QUESTION 3 (UNIONIZE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK DRIVERS)

YES	939
NO	861
Blanks	154
Total Votes Cast	**1,954**

QUESTION 4 (REGULATION OF PSYCHEDELIC SUBSTANCES)

YES	651
NO	1,208
Blanks	95
Total Votes Cast	**1,954**

QUESTION 5 (FULL MINIMUM WAGE FOR TIPPED WORKERS)

YES	558
NO	1,316
Blanks	80
Total Votes Cast	**1,954**

I certify that all ballots cast for candidates in the STATE ELECTION held on November 05, 2024 have been counted and recorded in accordance with the law, and that the following return of votes is correct

Whitney E. Flynn
Cheshire Town Clerk

Cheshire Annual Election Results - *May 5, 2025*

Official Results
Precinct 1 of 1 CHESHIRE
Total Votes Cast: 128

OFFICE	NAME	VOTES
Moderator		
(Vote for One)		
	Carol A. Francesconi	115
	Write-Ins	2
	Blanks	11
Selectmen		
(Vote for Two)		
	Ronald W. Deangelis	85
	Michelle A. Francesconi	82
	Write-Ins	12
	Blanks	77
Constable		
(Vote for Three)		
	Christopher Garner	92
	Timothy K. Garner	106
	Alison J. Warner	106
	Write-Ins	1
	Blanks	79
Assessor		
(Vote for One)		
	Nancy A. Delorey	109
	Write-Ins	1
	Blanks	18
Board Of Health Member *(Vote for One)*		
	Christopher Garner	101
	Write-Ins	0
	Blanks	27

OFFICE	NAME	VOTES
Planning Board Member		
(Vote for One)		
	Write-Ins	33
	Arthur Kaufman	25
	Blanks	95
Water Commissioner		
(Vote for One)		
	James Zepka	112
	Write-Ins	0
	Blanks	16
Cemetery Commissioner		
(Vote for One)		
	Marcus J. Lyon	105
	Write-Ins	0
	Blanks	23
Northern Berkshire Regional Vocational School District Committee Member - Cheshire Representative		
(Vote for One)		
	William D. Craig	106
	Write-Ins	2
	Blanks	20
Hoosac Valley Regional School District Committee Member - Cheshire Representative		
(Vote for One)		
	Write-Ins	8
	Blanks	120
Hoosac Valley Regional School District Committee Member - Adams Representative		
(Vote for Two)		
	John F. Duval	84
	Erin Milne	90
	Write-Ins	0
	Blanks	82

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Berkshire SS.
Monday, June 9, 2025, 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: Chair Jeffrey Chaput, Denise Gregoire, Kathleen Levesque, Patrick Pettit, William Rech
Town Administrator: Jennifer Morse
Town Counsel: Donna MacNicol – MacNicol and Tombs

The Town of Cheshire's Annual Town Meeting was held on Monday, June 9, 2025, at the Cheshire Community House, located at 191 Church Street.

Board of Registrar, Elizabeth King, and Election Worker, Mary Ellen Baker, began voter check-in at 6:30 PM.

In attendance were ninety (90) voters and nine (9) 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.

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. This year's Annual Report was dedicated to retired Town Clerk, Christine B. Emerson, for her 30 years of dedicated service.

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, 2025, 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: No significant property to be disposed of at this time.

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, 2025, 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 **88 in favor, 0 opposed; Article Passed.**

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 2026, 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 8: **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sum of **$1,635,417** for the conduct of **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**, including all charges and expenses of the various town offices, for Fiscal Year 2026, or take any action in relation thereto:

	FY25 Voted	FY26 Proposed	% Change
Legal Services	20,000	25,000	25.0
Moderator Salary	50	50	0.0
Board of Selectmen Stipends (5 @ $3,863)	18,935	19,315	2.0
Board of Selectmen Expenses	10,400	10,400	0.0
Clean Lake Program	26,206	28,394	8.3
MS4 – Stormwater Compliance	7,500	7,500	0.0
Group Purchasing (Procurement)	800	800	0.0
Town Audit	10,000	10,000	0.0
Information Technology	52,364	52,364	0.0
Town Website	5,250	5,250	0.0
Town Administrator Salary	90,000	91,800	2.0
Executive Assistant Salary	**25,931**	**54,309**	**109.0**
Town Administrator Expenses	**3,000**	**3,250**	**8.3**
Accounting Services	34,800	35,880	3.1
Accounting Software (VADAR)	4,348	4,566	5.0
Assessors Stipend (Chairperson)	3,883	3,883	0.0
Assessors Stipends (Members 2 @ $3,328)	6,656	6,656	0.0
Assessors Administrator Salary	32,862	33,523	2.0
Assessors Expenses	3,910	3,910	0.0
Assessors Contracted Services	48,985	32,905	-32.8
Treasurer/Collector Salary – Treasurer	**65,393**	**50,000**	**-23.5**
Asst. Treasurer/Collector Salary – Collector	**20,468**	**35,000**	**71.0**
Treasurer/Collector Expenses	12,500	12,500	0.0
Treasurer Payroll Processing	4,000	4,000	0.0
Treasurer/Collector Tax Title Expenses	4,000	4,000	0.0
Treasurer/Collector Certification Stipend	1,000	2,000	100.0
QDS Software – RE/PP Collections	3,342	3,550	6.2
Finance Committee Expenses	1,500	1,750	16.7
Town Clerk Salary	**28,554**	**35,908**	**25.8**
Town Clerk Expenses	3,150	3,150	0.0
Town Clerk Dog License Expense	400	400	0.0
Town Clerk Book Repair	2,500	2,500	0.0
Town Clerk Census/Lists	3,200	3,200	0.0
Board of Registrars/Elections	15,000	10,000	-33.3
Town Report Printing	2,700	2,700	0.0
Conservation Commission Stipends (3 @ $520)	1,530	1,560	2.0
Conservation Commission Consult	500	500	0.0
Conservation Commission Expenses	1,500	1,500	0.0
Planning Board Expenses	2,515	2,515	0.0
Planning Board BRPC Assessment	2,843	2,915	2.5
Planning Board Stipends (5 @ $327)	1,600	1,635	2.0
Agricultural Commission Expenses	500	500	0.0
Historical Commission Expenses	500	1000	100.0
Zoning Board of Appeals Expenses	800	800	0.0
Berkshire County Retirement	173,753	169,650	-2.4
OPEB Funding	20,000	20,000	0.0

	FY25 Voted	FY26 Proposed	% Change
OPEB Actuarial Services Study	2,200	3,500	59.1
Health Insurance – Active	265,726	301,872	13.6
Health Insurance – Retiree	40,000	40,000	0.0
Heath Insurance – Dental	8,500	9,861	16.0
Unemployment	5,000	5,000	0
MEDC Employer Share	16,500	17,500	6.1
Town Hall/Police Utilities	25,000	25,000	0.0
Fire Station Utilities	15,000	18,500	23.3
Town Garage Utilities	13,000	12,000	-7.7
Senior Center Utilities	7,500	7,000	-6.7
Town Phone Systems	15,000	15,000	0.0
Community House Utilities	70,000	70,000	0.0
Town Building Repairs	120,000	120,000	0.0
Town Water Accounts	**0**	**59,000**	
ADA Compliance	5,000	5,000	0.0
Town Insurance & Bonds	104,542	106,633	2.0
Police/Fire Accident/ Disability Insurance	16,500	16,563	0.4
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	**1,509,096.00**	**1,635,417.00**	**8.3**

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 5-1
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 by voters regarding the differences/increases in the line items, and what the plan is; answered by Selectmen Chair.

Town Administrator Salary – Has brought in around three million dollars to Cheshire via grants. Executive Assistant Salary – Increasing to full-time due to immense workload with providing services to various Boards/Committees.

Treasurer/Collector Salary-Treasurer – Efficiency gains including benefits not being paid out due to being a part-time employee; will work 19.5 hours per week on Tuesdays and Fridays; Town Administrator will handle Human Resources.

Asst. Treasurer/Collector Salary-Collector – Part-time saves on benefits; will complete work in two days per week and extend hours around due dates.

Town Clerk Salary – Increase hours from 20 to 24 per week and increase in hourly rate per salary study assessment, to be closer to comparable local median.

Town Water Accounts – Line item has moved due to indirect costs evaluation.

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried.**

Article 9: **HOOSAC VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

To see if the Town will vote to approve the Hoosac Valley Regional School District Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 and **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE $3,206,082** to pay its assessed share of the budget or take any action in relation thereto.

	FY25 Voted	FY26 Proposed	% Change
HVRSD Minimum Local Contribution	2,350,010	2,459,707	4.7
HVRSD Over Minimum Foundation	406,505	389,514	-4.2
HVRSD Transportation	135,355	147,422	8.9
HVRSD Capital Expenditure	207,126	209,439	1.1
HVRSD	**3,098,996.00**	**3,206,082.00**	**3.5**

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Does Not Recommend 2-4
Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: Selectmen Chair McGrath stated that those involved with setting the budget this year did well to communicate and worked hard to keep the increase minimal, although they had many additional financial burdens that were outside of their control. Voters asked for opinions from the Finance Committee members who did not recommend this article. Member Rech explained that the data presented by the school shows a history heavily toward administrative salary costs opposed to support for teachers and education; of which 55% of students attending do not meet the State minimum and only graduated 44 students this year. Finance Member Levesque stated that with how minimal the increase is this year, it is not worth the financial burden (as Cheshire incurred last year) to fight it, only to be outvoted by Adams again. Selectmen Francesconi included that much of the assessment is contributed to School Choice students' placement, such as tuition to Charter Schools like BART; of which Cheshire has no oversight of spending.

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried.**

Article 10: **NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

To see if the Town will vote to approve the Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 and **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE $586,213.00** to pay its assessed share of the budget or take any action in relation thereto.

	FY25 Voted	FY26 Proposed	% Change
NBVRSD Budget	547,430	586,213	7.1
NBVRSD	**547,430.00**	**586,213.00**	**7.1**

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: Voters questioned why the percentage increase was double that of HVRSD. School Committee Member William Craig explained that the operating budget of McCann is much less than Hoosac so the percentage is then higher, stating that NBVRSD added a new HVAC shop; there are also more students attending McCann than ever before.

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 **$42,142** for the **BUILDING DEPARTMENT** for Fiscal Year 2026, or take any action in relation thereto:

	FY25 Voted	FY26 Proposed	% Change
Building Commissioner Salary	18,540	18,911	2.0
Alternate Building Commissioner Salary	500	500	0.0
Building Commissioner Expenses	1,100	1,100	0.0
Online Permitting System	5,400	5,400	0.0
Gas/Plumbing Inspector Salary	6,077	6,199	2.0
Gas/Plumbing Inspector Assistant Salary	549	549	0.0
Gas/Plumbing Expenses	500	500	0.0
Wiring Inspector Salary	7063	7204	2.0
Wiring Inspector Assistant Salary	579	579	0.0
Wiring Inspector Expenses	700	1,200	71.4
TOTAL BUILDING DEPARTMENT	**41,008.00**	**42,142.00**	**7.7**

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: Voters questioned the increase in Wiring Inspector Expenses. Town Administrator Morse explained the need for additional classes and books.

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 **$402,609** for **PUBLIC SAFETY** for Fiscal Year 2026, or take any action in relation thereto:

	FY25 Voted	FY26 Proposed	% Change
Police Chief Salary	84,864	87,592	3.2
Police Full Time Officer Wages	172,658	114,465	-33.7
Police Department Part Time Officers	17,885	27,557	54.1
Police Department Expenses	13,500	13,500	0.0
Police Department Equipment	20,400	20,400	0.0
Police Department Auto Expenses	8,000	8,000	0.0
Police Department Officer OT/Holiday Pay	12,500	12,500	0.0
Animal Control Contracted Services	3,000	3,000	0.0
Animal Control Expenses	1,000	1,000	0.0
Fire Chief Salary	12,360	12,607	2.0
Asst. Fire Chief Stipends (3 @ $1,696)	3,326	5,088	52.9
Fire Department Expenses	62,000	62,000	0.0
Fire Department Volunteer Stipends (25)	25,000	25,000	0.0
Fire Department EMS Supplies	4,500	4,500	0.0
Communications Center (Dispatch)	24,559	2,900	-88.2
Emergency Management Director Stipend	1,500	1,500	0.0
Emergency Management Expenses	1,000	1,000	0
PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL	**468,052.00**	**402,609.00**	**-14.0**

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: Voters questioned the decrease in Communications Center (Dispatch). Fire Chief Francesconi explained that the State is taking over, and State funding will be provided to assist in the financial burden.

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 **$1,077,538** for **HIGHWAY OPERATIONS AND TREE WARDEN** for Fiscal Year 2026, or take any action in relation thereto:

	FY25 Voted	FY26 Proposed	% Change
Highway Workers Wages (3 Laborers, 1 Foreman)	229,208	236,336	3.1
Seasonal DPW Laborers Wages	**27,822**	**40,322**	**44.9**
Highway Department Longevity (contract)	1,500	1,500	0.0
Department of Public Works Director	79,100	88,208	11.5

	FY25 Voted	FY26 Proposed	% Change
Custodian Wages	**20,237.00**	**9,872**	**-51.2**
Highway Department Non-Winter Overtime	5,000	5,000	0.0
Highway Department Dues/ Training/Licenses	1,000	1,000	0.0
Facilities Wages	50,905	51,971	2.0
Road Machinery, Tools, Gas	126,000	126,000	0.0
Streetlights	60,000	75,000	0.0
Highway Department Repair/Maint. Roads	207,000	194,500	0.0
Highway Equipment Rental	5,000	5,000	0.0
Snow and Ice	170,000	170,000	0.0
Highway Department Engineering	35,000	35,000	0.0
Tree Warden Tree Removal	20,000	30,000	50.0
Tree Warden Tree Replacement	1,000	1,000	0
Cemetery Commission Stipends (3 @ $905)	2,661	2,715	2.0
Cemetery Commission Expenses	6,114	4,114	-32.7
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	**1,047,592.00**	**1,077,538.00**	**2.9**

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
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 by voters regarding the decreases/increases in the line items; answered by Selectmen Chair.

Seasonal DPW Laborers Wages – DPW will now have five employees to be used more widely throughout various departments from May-November; will not increase employees to full-time with benefits.

Custodian Wages – Line item decreased due to changes in roles and responsibilities being allocated elsewhere.

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 **$91,339** for **RECREATION AND CULTURE** for Fiscal Year 2026, or take any action in relation thereto.

	FY25 Voted	FY26 Proposed	% Change
Recreation General Expenses/ Memorial Day	10,300	10,300	0.0
Library Assessment	40,428	41,439	2.5
Father Tom Campsite	1,700	1,700	0.0
Veteran Agent Services (Shared)	2,000	2,000	0.0
Veteran Benefits	30,000	35,000	16.6
Cemetery Flags	900	900	0.0
TOTAL RECREATION & CULTURE	**85,328.00**	**91,339.00**	**7.0**

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
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 **$98,159** for **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** for Fiscal Year 2026, or take any action in relation thereto.

	FY25 Voted	FY26 Proposed	% Change
Board of Health Stipend Chair	3,883	3,883	0.0
Board of Health Stipends (2 @ $2,383)	**7,766**	**4,766**	**-63.0**
Board of Health Expenses	5,500	2,000	-63.0
Board of Health/ Health Inspector Services	5,000	8,000	60.0
Board of Health MAVEN Reporting	4,639	4,639	0.0
Senior Center/COA Expenses	8,470	8,470	0.0
Senior Center/COA Van Operating Expenses	3,400	3,400	0.0
Senior Center/COA Van Operator Salary	19,712	20,107	2.0
Senior Center Director Salary	27,574	28,126	2.0
Senior Center Meals Coordinator Salary	13,710	14,768	7.7
Animal Inspector Stipend	560.00	0	-100.0
Animal Inspector Expenses	150.00	0	-100.0
TOTAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	**100,364.00**	**98,159.00**	**-2.2**

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous.**

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

Discussion: Question by voter regarding the decrease; answered by Selectmen Chair.

Board of Health Stipend – Due to the hiring of others to take care of tasks that were previously done by Board of Health members.

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous.**

Article 16: 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 $37,104.00** for the Fiscal Year 2026, or take any action in relation thereto.

Revenues	
Department Receipts	106,090.00
General Fund Subsidy	37,104.00
TOTAL	**143,194.00**
Expenses	
Hauling and Disposal	110,000.00
Site Maintenance	2,600.00
Training and Education	500.00
Permits and Tags	3,500.00
Attendants Wages	26,594.00
TOTAL	**143,194.00**

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: Transfer Station Attendant, Gene Pierce, gave a detailed public service announcement regarding best practices while using the facility.

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous.**

Article 17: DEBT SERVICE EXPENSES
To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sum of **$217,540** to fund **DEBT SERVICE EXPENSES** for the Fiscal Year 2026, or take any action in relation thereto.

	FY25 Voted	FY26 Proposed	% Change
Fire Truck (2030)	44,665	43,848	-1.8
Highway Grader (2026)	36,200	0.0	-100.0
Highway Truck (Voted 2022)	53,345	51,198	-4.0
Highway Truck (Voted 2021)	29,607	28,457	-3.9
Short-term Debt Interest	5,000	5,000	0.0
Fire Engine (Voted 2025)	0	89,037	100.0
Total	**168,817.00**	**217,540.00**	**28.9**

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0
Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous.**

Article 18: Revolving Funds
To see if the Town will vote to approve the following spending limits for the Revolving Funds noted below pursuant to the Cheshire Revolving Fund Bylaw and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, Section 53E 1/2 for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, or take any action in relation thereto:

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 Year
Senior Center/COA	Senior Center Director	Receipts related to program fees	Senior Center Programs	Limit of $10,000	Fiscal Year 2026
Recreation	Recreation Committee/ Board of Selectmen	Receipts related to program fees	Recreation Committee Programs	Limit of $10,000	Fiscal Year 2026
Police Department	Police Chief	Receipts from Detail Fees	Police Cruiser Expenses	Limit of $20,000	Fiscal Year 2026
Board of Health	Board of Health	Receipts from Permitting	Public Health Alliance Inspection Fees	Limit of $20,000	Fiscal Year 2026

Board of Selectmen Recommends ***Finance Committee Recommends 6-0*** ***Majority Vote Required***

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

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous.**

Article 19: STABLIZATION FUND & CAPTIAL STABLIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the sum of **$10,000** to fund the **CAPITAL STABLIZATION FUND** and the sum of **$10,000** to fund the **STABLIZATION FUND** for Fiscal Year 2026, or take any action in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0

Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous.**

Article 20: ASSESSORS STABILIZATION FUND ESTABLISHMENT

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

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0

2/3 Vote Required

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

Discussion: Voter questioned why this article was necessary. Selectman Chair explained that this will lessen the financial burden on the taxpayers during reevaluation years by increasing expense gradually over time.

Card Vote **82 in favor, 0 opposed; Article Passed, Unanimous.**

Article 21: FREE CASH and SPECIAL PROJECTS

To see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER FROM FREE CASH** the sum of **$171,000** for the following special projects, or take any action in relation thereto.

OPM Services/Feasibility Study – Public Safety Complex	60,000
Fire Walls – Upgrade	6,000
Stabilization	30,000
Capital Stabilization	20,000
Community House Heating System (Engineering)	50,000
Assessors Stabilization Account	5,000

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0

Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous.**

Article 22: **Water Department Retained Earnings - Water Asset Management Plan**

To see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** the sum of **$22,104** from available certified **Water Operations Surplus** for the purpose of completing the Cheshire Water Asset Management Plan, or take any action relative thereto.

Current balance of Cheshire Water Department retained earnings is $252,316.

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Water Commission Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0

Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous.**

Article 23: **Water Department Enterprise Fund Water Meter Upgrades**

To see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** the sum of **$20,143** from available certified **Water Operations Surplus** for the purpose of completing the Water Department Water Meter Reading Upgrade, or take any action relative thereto.

Current balance of Cheshire Water Department retained earnings is $252,316.

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Water Commission Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0

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 **$402,722** to operate the **Water Enterprise Fund** for the Fiscal Year 2026, or take an action in relation thereto.

Revenues	
Water User Revenues	402,722.00
Retained Earnings	0.00
TOTAL	**402,722.00**

Expenses

Water Commissioner Stipends	10,140.00
Water Operator Salary	63,037.00
Secondary Water Operator Salary	15,912.00
Water Main Replacements	90,000.00
Water Operating Expenses	45,000.00
Water Maintenance Expenses	45,000.00
Water Debt Service	62,038.00
Indirect Costs	64,095.00
Water Vehicle Expense	7,500.00
TOTAL	**402,722.00**

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Water Commission Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0

Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: Voters questioned why the comparison of last year's vote was not included in the warrant and if the budget presented would increase the water rates in the coming year. Water Commissioner, Rick Gurney, stated that it cannot yet be confirmed if the water rates will increase or not, as this will not be determined until the end of the Fiscal Year once the numbers have been crunched. A water user was not comfortable voting on the budget as presented, stating it was "putting the cart before the horse." Voters were directed to refer to the Annual Town Report to see last year's budget numbers and were also invited to attend regularly scheduled meetings.

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried.**

Article 25: **POLICE CRUISER – DEBT EXCLUSION**

To see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** a sum not to exceed **$67,150.00** and to authorize the Treasurer, per MGL Chapter 44, Section 2, to borrow $67,150 for the purpose of purchasing a new Police Cruiser on a three year note to be paid by June 30, 2028, contingent upon subsequent passage of Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion vote, or take any 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
Finance Committee Recommends 5-1

2/3 Vote Required

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

Note: The original warrant article as presented was amended from "June 30, 2026" and corrected to "June 30, 2028"; the correction was made and read allowed by the Moderator and is stated as was voted in the record of these minutes.

Discussion: None

Card Vote **78 in favor, 5 opposed; Article Passed.**

Article 26: **Free Cash to reduce the tax rate**

To see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** from **FREE CASH** a sum of **$297,897** to reduce the FY26 Tax Rate, or take any action relative thereto.

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

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

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0

Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous.**

Article 27: **QUARTERLY TAX PAYMENT SYSTEM**

To see if the Town will vote to adopt G.L. Chapter 59, Section 57c, for the purpose of adopting or establishing a quarterly tax payment system effective July 1, 2026 (Fiscal Year 2027), or take any action in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0

Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: Voters questioned when tax payments would be due, if taxes could still be paid on the semi-annual schedule, what the impact would be on operating costs, and why Cheshire is moving to this schedule. Replies stated that payments would be due in August, November, February and May, and if taxpayers chose to pay semi-annually, they would need to pay the first half in August and second half in February to avoid late fees per quarter. Finance Committee Member Rech stated a committee was formed to investigate this matter; findings concluded that 80% of the State does quarterly billing to ensure consistent cash flow to pay municipal bills and reduce borrowing; stating that the implementation of the system in Cheshire will be a marginal financial increase initially, and other communities reported no additional workforce load with quarterly billing.

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried.**

Article 28: **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
Finance Committee Recommends 5-1

Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: Selectmen Killeen spoke about last year's failure to provide detailed information to accurately depict the benefits to Cheshire if this local option is adopted. He explained that 14 area towns have adopted this, and 9 local businesses would participate; it will provide approximately $20,000 in revenue through quarterly payments from the State, with the majority of the money being collected by purchases made by people from other communities.

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous.**

<u>Article 29:</u> **GOLD STAR EXEMPTION**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22H of the Massachusetts General Laws, to provide an exemption from taxes for the real property of the surviving parents or guardian of soldier and sailor who suffered a fatal injury or who are missing in action with a presumptive finding of death as a result of active duty service as members of the armed forces of the United States, or take any action in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 6-0

Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: A voter questioned if there would be a threshold of exemption given based upon tax evaluation and how many families would benefit from this article; how would it affect the tax rate. The Selectman Chair stated there is no limit for the Gold Star Exemption and they are only aware of one family, currently, in Cheshire who lost their son while fighting for our country.

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous.**

<u>Article 30:</u> **GENERAL BYLAW – KEEPING AND RAISING OF LIVESTOCK OR POULTRY**

In all zones other than the A-R (Agricultural/Residential), the keeping and raising of livestock or poultry shall require registration of said livestock or poultry with the Cheshire Board of Health and shall permit regular inspections by the Animal Inspector under applicable state and local law or regulations. All permits issued by the Board of Health under this section shall include conditions of approval and direct abutter notification, the submission of evidence of such notification and registration. The registration fee for the permit shall be set by the Board of Health.

Only selected domesticated fowl (hens, ducks, pigeons and doves), domesticated rabbits (including domesticated hares) and selected exotic mammals (potbellied pigs and dwarf goats with proper emotional support animal certification) may be raised and kept as an accessory use. On such properties, no roosters, geese, swans, turkeys, pheasants, peacocks, guinea fowl, pygmy goats, pigs, or any other livestock or poultry shall be permitted in the R-1 District.

No more than six total adult domesticated fowl and rabbits shall be kept on any property, regardless of the number of dwelling units.

Domesticated fowl and rabbits shall be confined with fencing or other secure enclosures which shall be set at least ten (10) feet from any property lines and twenty (20) feet from residential structures on any adjacent property. Within such an enclosure, a minimum of ten (10) square feet of open yard area shall be provided.

Within or attached to any such enclosure shall be provided a secure sheltering structure (e.g., coop, dovecot, hutch or shed, as appropriate) of sufficient size to ensure the health and safety of said livestock or poultry.

The keeping of pets shall be allowed by right, such as dogs, cats, various species of rodents (rats, mice, guinea pigs, hamsters, ferrets, chinchillas etc.), exotic birds , reptiles, fish or amphibians. The keeping of wild animals, exotic birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians as pets is subject to the requirements of M.G.L Chapter 131 Sections, 23, 25 and 26A as amended and 321 CMR 2.12 and 9.01, as amended, or take any action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

~~***Majority Vote Required***~~

2/3 Vote Required

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

Discussion: Voters questioned how this would be enforced since there is no longer an Animal Inspector in the Town. Others voiced concerns about rodent populations increasing with chickens in the residential neighborhoods, and some asked if there would be exceptions made to those who already have more than six chickens at one address. Replies stated that enforcement is going to be carried out by the Board of Health using animal inspectors from the Berkshire Health Alliance to the specifications stated within this General Bylaw. Discussion continued regarding the pros and cons of keeping the information as is within the current Zoning jurisdiction, and whether moving toward this purview as a General Bylaw would allow for better oversight of the existing chickens "all over town."

Card Vote **61 in favor, 5 opposed; Article Passed.**

<u>Article 31:</u> **Zoning Bylaw Amendment -**

To see if the Town will amend the Town of Cheshire Protective and Planning Zoning Bylaw § 3.2-B.10 to remove the requirement of a Special Permit in the R-1 District and by allowing it by right in the R-1 District, or take any action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Planning Board Recommends 5-0

~~***Majority Vote Required***~~

2/3 Vote Required

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

Discussion: Voters discussed concerns regarding property evaluations if this article were removed from Zoning and asked for stronger enforcement of Zoning Bylaws; asking to keep it as it currently is, in Zoning.

Card Vote **64 in favor, 2 opposed; Article Passed.**

Article 32: **Zoning Bylaw Amendment -**

To see if the Town will amend the Town of Cheshire Protective and Planning Zoning Bylaw § 3.3-C to remove this section which prohibits the keeping of livestock or poultry in the R-1 District.... , or take any action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Planning Board Recommends 5-0

~~***Majority Vote Required***~~

2/3 Vote Required

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

Discussion: None

Card Vote **64 in favor, 1 opposed; Article Passed.**

Article 33: **UNCOMBINE TREASURER/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)

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends 5-1

Majority Vote Required

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

Discussion: None

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried.**

Article 34: FLOOD PLAIN BYLAW AMENDMENT

Town of Cheshire Protective and Planning Zoning Bylaw §225-9.2. Floodplain District Regulations

§225-9.2. *Flood Hazard District regulations.*

A. **Purpose.**

The purpose of the Floodplain Overlay District is to:

1) Ensure public safety through reducing the threats to life and personal injury.
2) Eliminate new hazards to emergency response officials.
3) Prevent the occurrence of public emergencies resulting from water quality, contamination, and pollution due to flooding.
4) Avoid the loss of utility services which if damaged by flooding would disrupt or shut down the utility network and impact regions of the community beyond the site of flooding.
5) Eliminate costs associated with the response and cleanup of flooding conditions.
6) Reduce damage to public and private property resulting from flooding waters.

Purpose of district. The following regulations meet the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program and are administered by the Building Inspector in consultation with the Town of Cheshire Board of Health.

B. **Definitions.**

Development means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to building or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

Flood Boundary and Floodway Map means an official map of a community issued by FEMA that depicts, based on detailed analyses, the boundaries of the 100-year and 500-year floods and the 100-year floodway.

Floodway. The channel of the river, creek, or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]

Functionally Dependent Use means a use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities, port facilities that are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, and ship building and ship repair facilities, but does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59] Also [Referenced Standard ASCE 24-14]

Highest Adjacent Grade means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

Historic Structure means any structure that is:

(a) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;

(b) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;

(c) Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or

(d) Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:

  (1) By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or

  (2) Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

[US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

New Construction. Structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of the first floodplain management code, regulation, ordinance, or standard adopted by the authority having jurisdiction, including any subsequent improvements to such structures. New construction includes work determined to be substantial improvement. [Referenced Standard ASCE 24-14]

Recreational Vehicle means a vehicle which is:

(a) Built on a single chassis;

(b) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection;

(c) Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and

(d) Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

[US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

Regulatory Floodway – see Floodway

Special Flood Hazard Area. The land area subject to flood hazards and shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard map as Zone A and/or A1-30. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]

Start of Construction. The date of issuance for new construction and substantial improvements to existing structures, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement, or other improvement is within 180 days after the date of issuance. The actual start of construction means the first placement of permanent construction of a building (including a manufactured home) on a site, such as the pouring of a slab or footings, installation of pilings or construction of columns.

Permanent construction does not include land preparation (such as clearing, excavation, grading, or filling), the installation of streets or walkways, excavation for a basement, footings, piers or foundations, the erection of temporary forms or the installation of accessory buildings such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main building. For a substantial improvement, the actual "start of construction" means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]

Structure means, for floodplain management purposes, a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

Substantial Repair of a Foundation. When work to repair or replace a foundation results in the repair or replacement of a portion of the foundation with a perimeter along the base of the foundation that equals or exceeds 50% of the perimeter of the base of the foundation measured in linear feet, or repair or replacement of 50% of the piles, columns or piers or a pile, column or pier supported foundation, the building official shall determine it to be a substantial repair of a foundation. Applications determined by the building official to constitute substantial repair of a foundation shall require all existing portions of the entire building or structure to meet the requirements of 780 CMR. [As amended by MA in 9th Edition BC]

Variance means a grant of relief by a community from the terms of a flood plain management regulation. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

Violation means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's flood plain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in §60.3 is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

N/A

C. Definitions of Flood Zones.

All of these terms are defined in the US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 64.3.

Zone A means an area of special flood hazard without water surface elevations determined.

Zones A1-30 means area of special flood hazard with water surface elevations determined.

Zones B and C means areas of minimal or moderate flood hazards or areas of future-conditions flood hazard. (Zone X replaces Zones B and C on new and revised maps.)

D. District.

The Floodplain District is herein established as an overlay district. The District includes all special flood hazard areas designated on the Town of Cheshire's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program, dated July 19, 1982 and on the Flood Boundary & Floodway Map dated July 19, 1982. These maps indicate the 1%-chance regulatory floodplain. The exact boundaries of the District shall be defined by the 1%-chance base flood elevations shown on the FIRM and further defined by the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report dated January 19, 1982. The effective FIRM, FBFM, and FIS report are incorporated herein by reference and are on file with the Town Clerk, Planning Board, Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer, and Conservation Commission.

Location of overlay district. The Flood Hazard District is herein established as an overlay district. The underlying permitted uses are allowed, provided that they meet the following additional requirements as well as those of the Massachusetts State Building Code dealing with construction in floodplains. The Flood Hazard District includes all special flood hazard areas designated as Zone A, A1-A2-A4 in the Town of Cheshire Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), and the flood boundary and floodway maps dated July 19, 1982, on file with the Town Clerk and Building Inspector. These maps, as well as the accompanying Town of Cheshire Flood Insurance Study, are incorporated herein by reference.

E. Floodplain Administrator.

The Town of Cheshire hereby designates the position of Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer to be the official floodplain administrator for the Town of Cheshire.

N/A

F. Permits.

The Town of Cheshire requires the submittal of an application to the Planning Board for a special permit for all proposed construction or other development in the floodplain overlay district, including new construction or changes to existing buildings, placement of manufactured homes, placement of agricultural facilities, fences, sheds, storage facilities or drilling, mining, paving, and any other development that might increase flooding or adversely impact flood risks to other properties.

G. Other Permits.

The Town of Cheshire's permit review process includes the requirement that the proponent obtain all local, state, and federal permits that will be necessary in order to carry out the proposed development in the floodplain overlay district. The proponent must acquire all necessary permits, and must demonstrate that all necessary permits have been acquired.

H. Floodway Encroachment.

In Zones A and A1-30, along watercourses that have not had a regulatory floodway designated, the best available Federal, State, local, or other floodway data shall be used to prohibit encroachments in floodways which would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.

In Zones A1-30, along watercourses that have a regulatory floodway designated on the Town of Cheshire's FIRM and/or Flood Boundary & Floodway Map, encroachments are prohibited, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development within the adopted regulatory floodway unless it has been demonstrated though hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.

I. Unnumbered A Zones.

In A Zones, in the absence of FEMA BFE data and floodway data, the building department will obtain, review, and reasonably utilize base flood elevation and floodway data available from a Federal, State, or other source as criteria for requiring new construction, substantial improvements, or other development in Zone A, as the basis for elevating residential structures to or above base flood level, for floodproofing or elevating nonresidential structures to or above base flood level, and for prohibiting encroachments in floodways.

J. Subdivision Proposals.

All subdivision proposals and development proposals in the floodplain overlay district shall be reviewed to assure that:

1) Such proposals minimize flood damage.
2) Public utilities and facilities are located and constructed so as to minimize flood damage.
3) Adequate drainage is provided.

K. Base Flood Elevation Data for Subdivision Proposals.

When proposing subdivisions or other developments greater than fifty (50) lots or five (5) acres (whichever is less), the proponent must provide technical data to determine base flood elevations for each developable parcel shown on the design plans.

L. Recreational Vehicles.

In A and A1-30 Zones, all recreational vehicles to be placed on a site must be elevated and anchored in accordance with the zone's regulations for foundation and elevation requirements or be on the site for less than one hundred eighty (180) consecutive days or be fully licensed and highway ready

M. Watercourse Alterations.

In a riverine situation, the Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer shall notify the following of any alteration or relocation of a watercourse:

1) Adjacent communities, especially upstream and downstream.
2) Bordering states, if affected.
3) NFIP State Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
4) NFIP Program Specialist, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 1

N. Requirement to Submit New Technical Data.

If the Town of Cheshire acquires data that changes the base flood elevation in the FEMA mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas, the Town of Cheshire will, within six (6) months, notify FEMA of these changes by submitting the technical or scientific data that supports the change(s). Notification shall be submitted to:

1) NFIP State Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
2) NFIP Program Specialist, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 1

PLEASE NOTE

D-L in the proposed language is merged into one section of the current language…

Development regulations. The following requirements apply in the Flood Hazard District:

1) Within Zone A, wherever the base flood elevation is now provided on the FIRM, the applicant shall obtain any existing base flood elevation data and it shall be reviewed by the Building Inspector for its reasonable utilization toward meeting the elevation or floodproofing requirements, as appropriate, of the State Building Code.

2) In the floodway, designated on the Flood Boundary and Floodway Map, the following provisions shall apply:

a. All encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvement to existing structures and other development are prohibited unless certification by a registered professional engineer is provided by the applicant demonstrating that such encroachment shall not result in any increased flood levels during the occurrence of the 100-year flood; and

b. Any encroachment meeting the above standard shall comply with the floodplain requirements of the State Building Code; and

c. All public utilities and facilities, such as sewer and gas, electrical and water systems, shall be located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage; and

d. Adequate drainage systems shall be provided to reduce exposure to flood hazards; and

e. Base flood elevation (the level of the 100-year flood) data shall be provided by the applicant for proposals greater than 50 lots or five acres, whichever is less, for that portion within the Flood Hazard District

3) Within Zone A-A1-A2-A4, all mobile homes shall provide that:

a. Stands or lots are elevated on compacted fill or on pilings so that the lowest floor of the mobile home will be at or above the base flood level;

b. Adequate surface drainage and access for a hauler are provided;

c. In the instance of elevation on pilings, lots are large enough to permit steps, piling foundations are placed in stable soil no more than 10 feet apart. And reinforcement is provided for piers more than six feet above ground level; and

d. The placement of mobile homes, except in an existing mobile home park or mobile home subdivision, are prohibited in the floodway.

O. Variances to State Building Code.

The Town of Cheshire will request from the State Building Code Appeals Board a written and/or audible copy of the portion of the hearing related to the variance and will maintain this record in the community's files.

The Town of Cheshire shall also issue a letter to the property owner regarding potential impacts to the annual premiums for the flood insurance policy covering that property, in writing over the signature of a community official that (i) the issuance of a variance to construct a structure below the base flood level will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as $25 for $100 of insurance coverage and (ii) such construction below the base flood level increases risks to life and property.

Such notification shall be maintained with the record of all variance actions for the referenced development in the floodplain overlay district.

N/A

P. Other Variances.

A variance from these floodplain bylaws must meet the requirements set out by State law, and may only be granted if: 1) Good and sufficient cause and exceptional non-financial hardship exist; 2) the variance will not result in additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, or fraud or victimization of the public; and 3) the variance is the minimum action necessary to afford relief.

N/A

Q. Abrogation.

The floodplain management regulations found in this Floodplain Overlay District section shall take precedence over any less restrictive conflicting local laws, ordinances, bylaws, or codes.

N/A

R. Disclaimer.

The degree of flood protection required by this bylaw is considered reasonable but does not imply total flood protection.

N/A

S. Severability.

If any section, provision, or portion of this bylaw is deemed to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court, the remainder of the bylaw shall be effective.

N/A

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Planning Board Recommends

~~Majority Vote Required~~

2/3 Vote Required

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

Discussion: Voters requested information about what effect this amendment will have on the existing properties regarding insurance and flood plain mapping records. Responses explained that the current Flood Insurance Rate Map(s) (FIRM) are from 1982, but FEMA is in the process of creating new FIRM(s). The proposed amendment was drafted in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) following notification that the current language was not compliant with State regulations.

Card Vote **60 in favor, 0 opposed; Article Passed, Unanimous.**

Moderator Francesconi resolved to transact any other business that may properly come before this meeting or take any other action in relation thereto; and so, entertained a motion to dissolve the meeting.

Motion was made and seconded.

Discussion: A voter encouraged everyone who attended and voted on the articles which will be presented on a ballot at a future special election to show up at the polls and vote in favor to solidify the process.

Voice Vote Called **Motion Carried, Unanimous.**

Moderator Francesconi dissolved the meeting at 9:49 PM.

A True Copy, Attest

Whitney E. Flynn
Cheshire Town Clerk
July 9, 2025

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

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Superintendent of Schools

Overview

In the 2025–2026 school year, the district has continued to make strategic investments in programming designed to expand access, strengthen outcomes, and increase opportunities for all students and families. We remain committed to providing high-quality, universal preschool at no cost, ensuring early access to strong foundational learning experiences. At the secondary level, we have expanded Pathways programming, including the implementation of the My Career and Academic Plan (MyCAP) curriculum. We also strategically leverage our shared building to increase exploratory opportunities beginning in grade six, helping students build stronger connections to college and career readiness.

District-wide, we are strengthening our multi-tiered systems of support to better meet the academic and social-emotional needs of all learners. We also continue to invest in high-quality instructional resources grounded in applied learning principles, ensuring instruction is both rigorous and relevant. Collectively, these efforts reflect our commitment to continuous improvement and to ensuring every student is equipped with the skills and supports needed for long-term success. This report summarizes the work completed in key strategic areas over the past school year. Each year, we build on this foundation and further refine our focus across these priorities.

Preschool Programming

This year, we were again awarded a Commonwealth Preschool Partnership (CPPI) grant in the amount of $1,000,000 to continue the work of expanding access to high-quality preschool programming for families. This continued investment reflects the strength and impact of our early childhood programs. The funding has enabled us to continue offering full-day PreK at the elementary school and to maintain offsite classrooms in Adams and Cheshire.

In addition to expanding access, we have continued to strengthen and grow our early childhood programming. Staff across our preschool classrooms have received extensive professional development in the Science of Reading and Early Mathematics, ensuring that instruction is aligned with best practices in early learning. As a result of this focused effort, we are seeing strong outcomes, with a high percentage of students meeting benchmarks on our annual end-of-year assessments. These results reflect both the quality of instruction and the positive impact of increased access to early childhood education.

Innovation Pathways, College & Career Planning

Committed to continuous growth, Hoosac Valley High School continues to expand its programming to ensure all students have access to meaningful opportunities and are well prepared for future success.

Over the past several years, Hoosac Valley High School has strengthened its Innovation Career Pathways (ICP) program, expanding access to hands-on, experiential learning beyond the traditional classroom. Established pathways in Arts & Entertainment, Biomedical Science & Healthcare, Business & Entrepreneurship, Education, Engineering & Technology, Environmental Studies, and Sports Medicine allow students to explore areas aligned with their interests while gaining exposure to a broad range of career possibilities. Through ICP, students have access to internships, advanced coursework, and college-level classes that build the skills and experiences necessary for postsecondary success.

During this time, the high school has broadened credentialing opportunities, including Chainsaw Certification through the Game of Logging program, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification, CPR certification, phlebotomy, Leave No Trace certification, and CAD ACU (Autodesk Certified User) certification, further strengthening students' workforce readiness. In addition, Hoosac Valley has applied for Clean Energy pathway designation with the state and expanded engineering coursework through its partnership with Project Lead The Way, increasing access to high-quality, industry-aligned instruction.

The implementation of the My Career and Academic Plan (MyCAP) further enhances the student experience by providing structured opportunities for self-exploration, goal setting, and career planning. Spanning grades 6–12, MyCAP offers a sequenced framework of lessons, workshops, and activities that progressively build student self-awareness and career exploration skills. This progression supports students as they move from identifying personal strengths in middle school to planning for complex postsecondary and career pathways in high school. To strengthen the connection between school and workforce, the district also cultivates partnerships with local businesses and higher education institutions, creating meaningful experiences that expand students' understanding of future opportunities and career readiness.

Beyond technical knowledge, the curriculum intentionally integrates essential professional skills—often referred to as the "hidden curriculum"—that are critical for long-term employability. Students develop these competencies through:

Professional Communication: Engaging in regular, structured interactions with adults in professional settings to build confidence and clarity.

Workplace Soft Skills: Developing digital and professional etiquette, understanding workplace norms, and strengthening time management skills.

Career Literacy: Building practical tools for the job market, including resume development and mock interview preparation to support self-advocacy and professional readiness.

Transforming Teaching and Learning Across the District

Over the past several years, the district has undergone a strategic transformation in teaching and learning, shifting toward a more engaging, rigorous, and student-centered instructional core.

This work is anchored in the implementation of Project Lead The Way (PLTW), OpenSciEd, and Investigating History, Wit and Wisdom and the Democratic Knowledge Project, which emphasize inquiry-based learning, real-world phenomena, and evidence-based reasoning over rote memorization. In mathematics, this shift is reflected in the full K through HS Geometry implementation of Reveal Math and the ongoing piloting of new high school curricula aligned to college and career readiness standards.

The district has also strengthened foundational literacy through intensive professional development in the Science of Reading to ensure early academic success for all students.

To support effective implementation, the district has invested in sustained educator development, including program-specific coaching in Math, Science, and ELA. Instructional frameworks such as PBLWorks and Building Thinking Classrooms (BTC) further equip teachers to design authentic, student-centered learning experiences that promote collaboration, reasoning, and visible thinking.

This academic focus is complemented by a commitment to the whole child. Responsive Classroom (elementary) and Developmental Designs (middle school), along with advisory blocks and crew, strengthen social-emotional learning and build meaningful student-adult connections. Together, these efforts create learning environments where students are supported academically, socially, and emotionally while developing critical thinking and real-world problem-solving skills.

Multi Tiered Systems of Support

At Hoosac Valley Regional School District, we are dedicated to the success of every student through the continuous refinement of our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). This comprehensive framework allows us to proactively identify and address diverse learner needs by providing a tiered hierarchy of academic, social-emotional, and behavioral interventions. By focusing on universal design and targeted access points, we ensure that high-quality instruction is not a "one size fits all" model, but rather a flexible system that meets every student where they are.

A cornerstone of this work is our commitment to inclusive instructional practices in our universal tier. Through district-wide professional development, our educators and service providers engage in rigorous collaborative planning and data analysis. A primary example of this focus is currently unfolding within our high school ELA department, where staff are participating in intensive coaching to analyze and adapt instructional delivery. This initiative specifically aims to dismantle barriers for students with disabilities, ensuring they have full, equitable access to grade-level curriculum.

To bolster our tiered interventions, we have expanded specialized programming designed to keep students engaged and supported within their own school community:

ACE Programming: At the high school level, the ACE program provides a vital safety net, offering structured academic assistance for students in high-challenge areas and clear pathways for credit recovery.

Reset Spaces: Located at both the middle and high schools, these therapeutic environments provide students with a structured space to regulate emotional or behavioral needs and proactively build skills with highly qualified support staff, enabling them to return to the classroom ready to learn.

NECC Programming: By partnering with the New England Center for Children, we provide world-class support for our highest-need students. This allows them to receive specialized instruction alongside their peers within the district, fostering a sense of belonging while avoiding the need for out-of-district placements.

Collectively, these initiatives represent a fully integrated MTSS approach. By strengthening the instructional core and expanding our intervention toolkit, we are building a school culture defined by equity, resilience, and academic excellence for all learners.

Accountability and MCAS Results

Based on the latest Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) data for the 2025-2026 reporting cycle, the Hoosac Valley Regional School District (HVRSD) continues to navigate a path of "Moderate Progress" toward its improvement targets. The district serves approximately 1,000 students primarily across Adams and Cheshire, with a high-needs population making up a significant portion of the enrollment at approximately 67%. The district is currently classified as not requiring assistance or intervention, having met 40% of its improvement targets.

Progress Toward Targets - Moderate Progress (Cumulative: 40%)

Chronic Absenteeism - High challenge area, though middle school shows improvement

Graduation/Dropout Rates - High school completion rates remain a critical focus area. The district has implemented an extensive dropout prevention plan in response.

Areas of Strength - Despite the challenges of a small rural district, HVRSD outperforms the state in specific areas of student opportunity:

Broad Course Access: The district provides significantly higher access to Arts and Computer Science courses than the state average. This is a hallmark of their "Portrait of a Learner" initiative.

Middle School Momentum: Hoosac Valley Middle School showed "Substantial Progress" in certain categories, particularly in Science achievement and growth for the "Lowest Performing Students" group.

Safe & Supportive Environment: The district has successfully implemented the Developmental Designs Advisory program and P.R.I.D.E. (Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Diversity, and Empathy) values, which correlate with positive social-emotional data.

Advanced Coursework: A high percentage of 11th and 12th graders are completing advanced coursework (AP, dual enrollment, and Project Lead the Way) relative to comparable districts.

Challenges & Areas for Growth - The 2025 MCAS data highlights several academic "cliffs" that the district is actively working to address:

Grade 10 Performance: There has been a notable decline in Grade 10 achievement levels. In Mathematics, the percentage of students "Meeting or Exceeding Expectations" dropped significantly, with 39% now in the "Not Meeting" category.

Chronic Absenteeism: While recovering from post-pandemic highs, absenteeism remains a drag on accountability points. The district earns 0 or 1 out of 4 points in this category for several student groups.

The “Middle to High” Gap: There is a visible dip in English Language Arts (ELA) and Science proficiency as students transition from the 8th grade to the 10th-grade assessment.

Student Growth Percentiles (SGP): While “Achievement” (absolute scores) is a struggle, the “Growth” (how much a student improves year-over-year) is also lower than state targets, particularly in ELA for high school students.

Summary

The district is currently refining its Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) to provide personalized, school-day interventions specifically targeting high-needs and lowest-performing subgroups. This strategic approach aims to stabilize the score volatility often seen in these populations by addressing academic gaps in real-time. While MCAS challenges remain, the district’s performance is consistent with peer districts of similar demographics, indicating that current hurdles are being met with appropriate, evidence-based strategies.

Beyond testing metrics, there is a clear trend of gradual progress in aligning district-wide work to optimize learning conditions and create a more uniform student experience. From expanded Pre-K programming to diverse high school pathways, the district remains committed to providing outstanding, meaningful learning opportunities that prepare students for success well beyond the classroom.

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

Jennifer Solak, Adams

Robert Tetlow, Cheshire

Tracey Tierney, Cheshire

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron M. Dean
Superintendent

Hoosac Valley High School

As the 2025–2026 school year moves forward at Hoosac Valley High School, we are excited to continue expanding our work with career-connected learning. With seven pathways now in place and full participation among students in grades 8, 9, 10, and 11, we are seeing firsthand how pathways deepen engagement and invite students into meaningful, hands-on learning beyond the classroom. As a DESE-designated Innovation Pathway High School, we are proud to provide students with experiences that build essential skills, broaden awareness of future careers, and support informed post-secondary decision-making. Our pathways, which include Biomedical Science and Healthcare, Environmental Studies, Engineering and Technology, Arts and Entertainment, Education, Sports Medicine and Health and Wellness, and Business and Entrepreneurship, offer students authentic opportunities to explore high-demand fields and envision their futures.

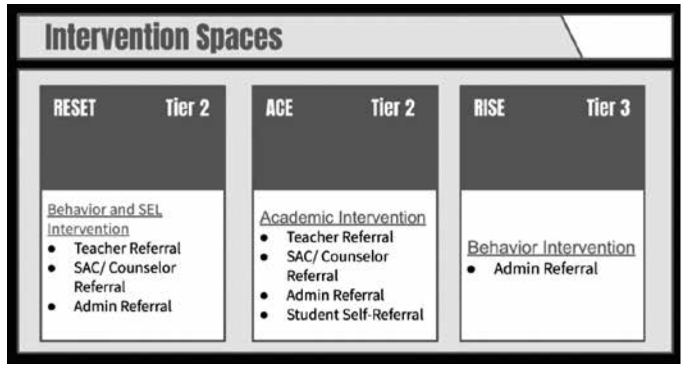
We are closing in on our third year with a redesigned schedule that is flexible and rotating, while offering 60-minute instructional blocks that allow students the time and space to engage deeply in meaningful learning. This structure supports authentic collaboration, project-based work, and individualized support, while also opening doors to experiences beyond the classroom. Through our **College and Career Readiness Program**, more than 40 juniors and seniors each semester participate in work-study, internships, or capstone projects that connect academic learning with real-world application. Students partner with local businesses and organizations to develop practical skills, explore career pathways, and contribute to their community. We are grateful for our ongoing collaborations with partners such as *Senator Paul Mark's Office, Trout Unlimited, Youth Center Inc., MassWildlife, Greylock Glen Center, Tamarack Hollow, Zoar, Notchview Trustees of Reservations, Berkshire Innovation Center, Dream Green Recycling, and the Adams Council on Aging* among many others. These experiences empower students to learn alongside professionals in fields of interest, and we continue to welcome new community partners who are eager to support student growth through internship opportunities.

We continue to support students in preparing for life after high school through a wide range of career exploration experiences, including our annual Career Fair, immersive field trips, job shadowing opportunities, résumé-building workshops, and mock interviews. Alongside these experiences, students have access to meaningful academic acceleration, with 11 Advanced Placement courses offered onsite, a dual enrollment class in partnership with MCLA, and additional opportunities to enroll in college coursework off campus through our local higher education partners. Together, these offerings reflect our District's ongoing commitment to helping students build skills, confidence, and real-world connections. As we look ahead, we remain focused on strengthening and expanding these pathways so every student is supported in pursuing their goals in college, career, and community.

We are also continuing to elevate student voice and choice in both learning and school culture through our **Student and Adult Advisory Board (SAAB)**. Now in its second year, SAAB continues to grow. This year we welcomed even more students and staff into the work (50 students this year and 6 teachers!). This collaborative group brings together HVHS students and adults to strengthen our school community by identifying areas for improvement through meaningful dialogue, research, and shared problem-solving. Together, members brainstorm ideas, develop implementation plans, and communicate progress and challenges with the broader school community. By centering student voice, SAAB shifts the traditional power dynamic in schools and *learning becomes something we create together, rather than something that happens to students*. Our students are experts in their own experiences, and SAAB ensures their perspectives help shape the best version of Hoosac Valley High School.

Hoosac Valley High School is proud to be an active partner in the Berkshire County **Portrait of a Graduate (PoG)** initiative, a regional collaboration focused on creating a community-driven vision for student success. Berkshire County spans 946 square miles across three state borders and serves approximately 15,000 students within 13 school districts and 52 schools, including 12 high schools, with high-needs populations ranging from 32–73%. Our PoG collaborative brings together five districts and six high schools, representing nearly 60% of the region's PK–12 students, with 67% identified as high needs and 60% as low income, to share resources, exchange ideas, and strengthen practice across systems. Hoosac Valley joined this effort in 2023, followed by Monument Mountain in 2024, deepening our collective impact. Through this work, we are intentionally designing schooling to meet the needs of every learner while enhancing meaningful student experiences and cultivating the knowledge, skills, and dispositions students need for their next steps in college, career, and life... whatever path they choose.

In order to ensure access for all, we continue to strengthen our **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)** through ACE, RISE, and RESET, now in our second year of implementation. RESET provides a calm, structured environment where students receive timely support with emotional regulation and are guided back to learning through mindfulness and intentional reintegration. RISE (Restorative In-School Education) serves as a restorative alternative to traditional in-school suspension, pairing accountability with reflection, skill-building, and supported transitions back to the classroom. ACE (Academic Center for Excellence) offers targeted Tier II academic support, helping students develop organization, study habits, and self-advocacy through individualized coaching. Together, these supports ensure students receive coordinated academic, behavioral, and social-emotional interventions that promote growth, build resilience, and strengthen long-term success.



CLUBS AND PERKS WE ARE OFFERING AND MAINTAINING AT HVHS:

MEFA Pathways:

This year, Hoosac Valley High School launched MEFA Pathways as a new college and career planning platform to strengthen our student-centered approach to postsecondary readiness. MEFA Pathways provides students with structured opportunities to explore careers, reflect on their interests and skills, research colleges and training programs, and build personalized plans for life after high school. By rolling out this platform schoolwide, we are enhancing advising conversations and creating a consistent framework for career exploration that begins early and evolves over time. MEFA Pathways supports our commitment to intentional planning, helping students make informed decisions while empowering them to take ownership of their goals in college, career, and life.

Common Ground:

Having experienced difficulty recruiting people to join our school's World of Difference club, we collectively made the decision to unite forces with the Gay Straight Alliance which, while having certain distinctive objectives, has considerable overlap as well. The resulting collaboration of the two clubs precipitated a change in name with the students deciding of *Common Ground* as our new collective club name. Students in *Common Ground* are working to reach out to their school community through aspects of presentation and education as well as outreach and advocacy as a means of creating a brave space for all students. We have been developing short workshops on inclusiveness, identity, and acceptance which we are hoping to use with middle and/ or high school students. Students will be designing these workshops based on World of Difference resources, and the students will arrange with the administration and staff to conduct these over the course of the second half the school year. Another priority the collaboration has identified and is working to facilitate is the creation of a space for all Hoosac students to gather that would have various resources and media on community building, diversity, as well as materials of interest and use to LGBTQ+ students and allied community members. The goal of *Common Ground* is to begin to compile local community resources and supports relevant to high school students that would be easy for them to access.

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 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. **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, along with Advanced Outdoor Leadership.

American Sign Language Club:

The ASL Club originated five years ago as part of an eighth-grade Civics Project led by a student who was fluent in American Sign Language and deeply connected to the Deaf community and culture. Following her graduation, the club is now student-led by three members who have participated since their eighth and ninth grade years. The club meets weekly on Mondays after school and also convenes during a WIN period three days per week within the school day. Members learn new signs, practice communicating using proper grammatical ASL structure, and deepen their understanding of Deaf culture. The faculty advisor serves primarily as a facilitator and is also an ASL learner.

HVHS Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Marching Band:

The HVHS Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Marching Band are active, visible, and proud parts of our school community. Students perform throughout the year at pep rallies, athletic events, and community celebrations, including the Fall Foliage, Memorial Day and Halloween parades. Last year, they also performed with the Eagles Community Band, played at an MCLA Hockey game, and presented two evening concerts at the school.

One of our most memorable experiences in 2025 was a trip to Walt Disney World, where students took part in a professional recording session with Disney engineers and performed on Main Street, U.S.A. The bands also proudly perform at graduation each year. Keep your eyes and ears open — you're sure to see and hear them often!

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 that include organizing and running school elections for class officers, and contributing their voices on school policies and procedures with our SAAB 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 a distinguished organization that recognizes high school students for excellence beyond academics. More than an honor roll, NHS honors students who exemplify four guiding pillars: scholarship, service, leadership, and character—values that have defined the organization since its founding in 1921. Membership not only celebrates students' achievements but also encourages them to grow through active participation in school initiatives and community service, fostering personal development and a commitment to making a positive impact. This year 19 students were inducted in our chapter.

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 weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Exciting things are on the horizon at HVHS! We look forward to adding another designated pathway as we continue to reimagine education and create meaningful opportunities that put our students first.

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 Portrait of a Learner 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.

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.

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.

Live School:

Live School is a digital platform that helps our school community track and reward positive student behavior. It allows teachers and staff to award points to students who demonstrate our core values, reinforcing a culture of high expectations and personal growth. Students and families can view their progress in real-time, and students can redeem their accumulated points for school-wide rewards, events, and privileges. This system ensures consistent feedback and helps us celebrate students who are meeting our high standards for behavior.

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.

- Reveal Math: Reveal Math is designed to help students meet high academic standards and prepare them for future success. Through the use of this program, students will expand their math thinking and problem solving skills by being encouraged to preserve as they engage in sense-making activities that spark their curiosity and encourage them to think more critically about the math that is around them.

- 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.

- Investigating History: 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 six different exploratories: Project Lead the Way, Music, Physical Education, Technology, STEM Studio, and Art.

Title 1 Support

HVMS receives schoolwide Title 1 support through a federally entitled grant. This grant enables the school to employ one Title 1 teacher who supports 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.

Origins: Developmental Design:

Our advisory program follows the Developmental Designs framework, a research-based approach specifically created to meet the social and academic needs of adolescents. Each day begins with a “Circle of Power and Respect” (CPR) meeting, where students and advisors engage in structured greetings, sharing, and group activities. This consistent routine builds a safe, inclusive community where students practice essential social skills, strengthening the relationships that are vital for their academic success and personal growth.

Enrollment Data

Hoosac Valley Middle School	4	5	6	7
2025-2026	97	66	81	81
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

Kind. Connected. Visible.

Hoosac Valley Elementary School serves about 380 students in preschool through third grade. The school is located in downtown Adams on Commercial Street. The information included in this report highlights some of our statistical information, reviews some initiatives and tells about current instructional information. Our staff continues to put the needs of students first, provide the best possible education for all students and ensures a joyful learning environment for every student.

Teaching the whole child, academically, socially and emotionally, is a top priority at HVES. To support the effort in achieving this, HVES continues to be 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! To further support social emotional learning, this year we are training our staff in the Zones of Regulation to roll out with students this coming fall. The Zones of Regulation program does not see regulation as a fixed trait, but as a learnable skill nurtured through supportive relationships. Through the Zones of Regulation students are empowered in our school community with empathy and evidence-based tools that assist with regulation. By focusing on co-regulation and inclusive practice, we help people of all ages and abilities grow emotionally, socially, and meaningfully.

Hoosac P.R.I.D.E.

In the Hoosac Valley Regional School District, all three schools are also continuing to develop the tenets of P.R.I.D.E. in all students:

Perseverance - Pursuing a goal, trying repeatedly, asking for help.

Respect - Appreciating and considering the feelings, wishes, rights, and traditions of (self) and others.

Integrity - Doing the right thing even when no one is looking; Being honest and trustworthy.

Diversity - Accepting the differences among us gives our community strength.

Empathy - Considering others points of view to better understand and contribute to the growth of the relationship

Learning and continuously modeling each component of P.R.I.D.E. prepares our students to become productive members of the community and provides a common language and expectations for all school community members.

HVES Curricula:

English Language Arts

At HVES, we see literacy as the foundation for all future learning. Over the last few years, our preschool and prekindergarten educators have participated in the Science of Reading training. We are continuing this work with our kindergarten through third grade educators, as they will be receiving Science of Reading Training from The HILL over the next two years. This evidence-based course empowers teachers to become experts in the “how” and “why” of reading development. We aren’t just teaching kids to memorize words; we are building the neural pathways they need to become lifelong, independent readers. By investing in our educators today, we are ensuring that every child in our community has the keys to unlock their full potential.

We continue to utilize three literacy programs: Heggerty, Fundations, and Wit & Wisdom.

- **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.
- **Fundations:** 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.

Mathematics:

At the elementary school, we provide a comprehensive mathematics curriculum tailored to the developmental needs of students from preschool through third grade. By aligning three premier programs, Boston Focus, Eureka2 Math, and Reveal, we create a seamless transition that supports long-term academic success. The current programs focus on building a strong conceptual understanding through evidence-based instruction. This tiered approach ensures that students gain enduring knowledge and consistent problem-solving methods as they progress through each grade level.

- **Boston Focus / Preschool:** A research-based, play-centered program tailored for three-year-olds. It builds a foundational understanding of mathematics through integrated, theme-based units such as “Family and Friends” and “Growing and Changing.”

Enrollment Comparisons:											
Grade	**2015 - 2016**	**2016 - 2017**	**2017 - 2018**	**2018 - 2019**	**2019 - 2020**	**2020 - 2021**	**2021 - 2022**	**2022 - 2023**	**2023 - 2024**	**2024 - 2025**	**2025 - 2026**
PK			56	70	68	34	58	66	65	78	80
K	68	65	83	75	90	75	87	75	72	73	75
1	78	68	80	77	85	86	67	100	76	72	72
2	80	81	78	76	77	73	87	66	103	81	79
3	84	80	104	77	80	71	64	91	63	94	76
4	71	80									
5	72	68									
Total	**453**	**442**	**401**	**375**	**400**	**339**	**363**	**398**	**379**	**398**	**382**

Note: We decreased a third grade section and added a fourth pre-kindergarten classroom this year.

- **Eureka2 Math / PreKindergarten:** A research-proven program designed to build a deep body of math knowledge through interconnected modules and problem-solving models through integrated play and inquiry at their own level, focus on number core, and utilization of hands-on manipulatives to help visualize mathematical relationships. This program is built with Universal Design for Learning principles with embedded supports for multilingual learners and students needing extra assistance to foster a positive math identity from an early age to transition into kindergarten and beyond.

- **Reveal Math / Grades K–3:** A balanced elementary math program from McGraw Hill that is designed to develop the problem-solvers of tomorrow by sparking curiosity and building confidence through a unique lesson design. It is curiosity-driven, contains inquiry-focused exploration for a deep understanding of the core standards. Students use a variety of hands-on manipulatives to visualize mathematical relationships that foster both concrete and abstract thinking.

Title I:

Title I is a federal entitlement grant supporting school-wide academic support for all HVES students. The grant helps fund interventionists 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. The ELA interventionists provide these push-in or pull-out services for prekindergarten through third grade. Math interventionists provide these pull-out services for kindergarten through third grade.

Through Title I, we have also been able to host various family engagement opportunities as well. These events include a Trunk or Treat, Family Apple Pie making event, Winter Wonderland, a Family Bingo for Books, and other events. Each event has welcomed families into the school for the specific theme of the event, while also providing the families with a connection to the academic content as well.

Specials:

At Hoosac Valley Elementary School, our students also attend weekly classes in library/media, Visual Arts, Physical Education, Science and Music. Each special is student-centered and engaging for all children.

Parent Teacher Group (PTG)

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

Closing:

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

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

With kindness,

Christine Wenz
Principal
Hoosac Valley Elementary School

Department of Student Services

Annual Report 2025-2026

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 2025-2026 school year, we provided support to approximately 274 students with Individual Education Programs, both in district schools, as well as in out of district school placements and private schools. 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 has led HVRSD to seek outside partnerships with agencies such as Optimal Healing, Berkshire Applied Behavior Analysis, Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, and Positive Behavioral Support Corporation of the Berkshires. These partnerships help ensure that student needs are addressed 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 ensure access to the curriculum provided by the school. All of our schools strive to establish inclusive opportunities for students, and enriched educational experiences for all learners remain 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 collaboratively to examine data and identify social, emotional, and behavioral needs that may impact school safety or access to education. These systems of support are continuously reviewed, updated, and adjusted. To support this process, the district uses Curriculum Accommodation Plans providing training for all teachers in their development. Teachers collaborate with colleagues and explore innovative, diverse approaches to better meet diverse student needs. As student needs continue to increase, general education and special education have begun breaking down traditional barriers to work as a unified system. Together, they address student learning by aligning curriculum and instructional practices with individual learning styles.

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), RAVE-O, SRSD, and REWARDS Reading Intervention Programming. Furthermore, Hoosac Valley Elementary School (HVES) K-3 teachers received professional development in evidence based practice within the science of reading from the Hill for Literacy. We also have continued in year two of (AVMR) expanding this to all to our integrated preschool programming in year-long Science of Early Math professional development.

HVRSD continues to grow our PreK programming with the Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) Planning Grant with which we have expanded full-day PreK programming to four full-day classrooms for 4-year-olds at HV Elementary, as well as continuing our partnership with the Youth Center Inc and Magic Seasons for 10 hour daily and year-round programming. The grant also allowed all our CPPI programs to align curriculum resources, adopting Boston Focus for PreK literacy materials and training in the science of math this year. The grant offers transportation of all PreK 4-year-old 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 our 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 four day, 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. The CPPI team is also working with EEC to develop our Transition to Kindergarten and our Birth to Grade Three processes within the community.

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 Blooms, S'More, and Lexikeet Translation Services have allowed the HVRSD to improve family outreach and engagement. Our ESL teacher conducts benchmark assessments, ACCESS testing yearly, and ongoing progress monitoring using the TELL. Our ESL teacher provides direct classroom instruction to our English Learner (EL) students in all three buildings and collaborates regularly 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 2026-2027 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 refining the state's new Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process. 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 2026-2027 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 writing collaborative IEP goals, and create more opportunities to provide social emotional support for our students and their families.

HVRSD Special Education 2025-2026 Data:

District	1011	total / 274 Special Education	25.0%
HVES Prek-3	377	total / 117 Special Education	31.0%
HVMS 4-7	323	total / 73 Special Education	22.6%
HVHS 8-12	311	total / 58 Special Education	18.7%

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Monica Zanin
Director of Student Services
Hoosac Valley Regional School District

Hoosac Valley Athletics Report

2025-26

Department Overview:

Hoosac Valley has continued to experience a great deal of success during the 2025-26 academic year. Included in those successes was the first ever State Championship for our Boys Basketball program! Our programs as a whole 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 2025, Hoosac Valley offered the following programs: Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Football, Golf, and Cheer. All programs competed at the Varsity level but Girls Soccer also offered Junior Varsity competition. We also began a cooperative agreement with McCann Tech for Cross Country.

Our fall programs experienced a wide range of success with Football advancing to the MIAA Division VIII tournament before falling to eventual champion Randolph in the Quarterfinals.

While Football thrived, the Boys Soccer team had a great year as well. They were near the top of the WMass standings but were upset in the tournament. They won an MIAA Division V game before falling in the Round of 16.

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.

Cheer fielded a quality team as well with over 14 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 at Hoosac Valley. In addition to those, we had cooperative agreements with Mount Greylock (wrestling) and McCann Tech (Hockey). We didn't have any takers for Ice Hockey this season.

The Boys Basketball team were placed in the revived Berkshire North and had a very competitive season before getting white hot in the Postseason. They captured the Class D WMass title over Mt. Everett before going on a run for the Ages in the State Tournament. They upset the top seed, and rival Drury, to send them to the Final Four. They then overcame a 16 point second half deficit to earn their way into the state final before they ran away from Holbrook to capture their FIRST ever State Title! What a run!

Girls Basketball didn't have the season they wanted, but expectations are so high for them. They did advance to the MIAA Quarterfinals before they lost to Drury. The future remains bright for the girls who should rebound nicely going forward.

We did have students compete and excel in wrestling cooperative programs.

Spring Programs:

Our spring offerings are still underway and once again Hoosac Valley offered 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 25-26 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

2025 - 2026

In the last year, 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 DOD-FFAVORS (Department of Defense Fresh Fruits and Veggie Program).

The HVRSD Food Service Department is part of two collaborative purchasing groups: Collaborative for Educational Services (CES), through which we purchase our groceries and general bulk food. 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.

We continue to be a CEP (Community Eligibility Program) District. This designation allows us to offer free breakfast and lunch to every student in the district daily.

We have had two major changes in staff over the last year. Brian Belsky is the new manager for the Elementary School kitchen. Brian was promoted from cook after the previous manager parted ways from the district. Rosanne Schutz retired as Food Service Director after many years of dedicated service but remains on call for consulting.

The Food Service Department was reviewed three times by DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) in 2025. All of the reviews were part of the four-year review cycle required by the USDA. The programs reviewed were: Procurement, the Summer Food Program and the National School Lunch Program. Each review required slight modifications to our current procedures to keep up with the ever changing guidelines for our programs.

Daily participation in the combined lunch and breakfast program this year was 66%. The HVRSD Food Service Department has been able to maintain a balance of approximately $280,000.00 in our account which is three months operating expenses, the maximum allowed by DESE.

The percentage of students that qualify for free/reduced lunch meals as of December 2025 is 59%, down from 61% the previous year.

We will continue to operate two kitchens, one for the Elementary School and one for the Middle/High School, in SY 25-26

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin Acquista
Food Service Director

Business Administrator

Overview of Fiscal Year 2025

The Hoosac Valley Regional School District's School Committee and Town members approved a Fiscal Year 2025 budget of $22,481,719. This represented an increase of $1,096,524 or 5.1% over the previous fiscal year's budget. The FY 2025 budget saw another year of increased Ch. 70 funding which was critical in maintaining much needed positions and moving the district forward. This, along with the use of Rural Aid and the CPPI grant for expanded PreK programs allowed the District to focus on improving practices within the classroom and continue the forward motion of progress in each building.

The 2025 fiscal year began with a fund balance of $1,121,476 as certified by the Department of Revenue and ended the year with a certified E&D of $962,386 to start fiscal year 2026. 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 FY26 ($275,000) is deducted. The District increased the use of E&D for FY26 in order to continue building repair and capital projects without impacting town assessments.

Despite increases in revenue sources, the District continues to face challenges as Charter, School Choice and Special Education outplacements increase in cost year over year. The budget presentation for FY25 focused heavily on how much of the budget is spent towards students who are not educated within our buildings. These costs alone make up $503,000 of the increase in the FY25 budget. The increased cost of health care has also impacted the budget as premium costs for Health and Dental plans offered to Berkshire Health Group members remain on the rise.

In closing, the FY 2025 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. We will continue to face fiscal challenges as costs increase at a rate that exceeds our town's ability to raise and secure funds towards assessments, but the District Administration, despite such challenges, continues to uphold their mission of giving all of our students the best education possible and will use that as the guiding force in decision making and budget building in the years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika M. Snyder
Business Administrator
February 9, 2026

Hoosac Valley Regional School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds for the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	General Fund	School Choice Fund	Non-major Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Assessments to member towns	$ 9,583,421	$ -	$ -	$ 9,583,421
Charges for services	-	-	307,332	307,332
Intergovernmental	12,148,253	212,869	4,754,519	17,115,641
MTRS on-behalf payments	2,444,671	-	-	2,444,671
Investment income	95,328	-	-	95,328
Other revenues	63,654	-	3,927	67,581
TOTAL REVENUES	**24,335,327**	**212,869**	**5,065,778**	**29,613,974**
EXPENDITURES				
Administration	955,058	-	387	955,445
Instruction	7,165,138	71,090	1,853,995	9,090,223
Other school services	1,655,545	-	1,868,344	3,523,889
Operation and maintenance	1,510,784	-	7,250	1,518,034
Fixed charges	220,042	-	-	220,042
Special education	3,115,311	-	991,506	4,106,817
Intergovernmental	2,413,724	-	-	2,413,724
Employee benefits	4,512,852	-	-	4,512,852
MTRS on-behalf payments	2,444,671	-	-	2,444,671
Debt service:				
Principal retirement	650,000	-	-	650,000
Interest	231,100	-	-	231,100
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**24,874,225**	**71,090**	**4,721,482**	**29,666,797**
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(538,898)	141,779	344,296	(52,823)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (uses)				
Transfers in	403,597	-	-	403,597
Transfers out	-	-	(403,597)	(403,597)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (uses)	**403,597**	**-**	**(403,597)**	**-**
Net change in fund balances	(135,301)	141,779	(59,301)	(52,823)
FUND BALANCES, beginning	**1,500,319**	**929,744**	**1,763,983**	**4,194,046**
FUND BALANCES, ending	**$ 1,365,018**	**$ 1,071,523**	**$ 1,704,682**	**$ 4,141,223**

Hoosac Valley Regional School District
Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds, June 30, 2025

	General Fund	School Choice Fund	Non-major Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 1,255,239	$ 1,071,523	$ 1,429,119	$ 3,755,881
Short-term investments	1,096,996	-	-	1,096,996
Intergovernmental receivables	-	-	743,506	743,506
Other receivables	10,680	-	13,314	23,994
Interfund receivables	290,297	-	-	290,297
Inventory	-	-	32,649	32,649
TOTAL ASSETS	**2,653,212**	**1,071,523**	**2,218,588**	**5,943,323**
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	138,197	-	131,441	269,638
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	1,149,997	-	100,168	1,250,165
Interfund payables	-	-	282,297	282,297
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**1,288,194**	**-**	**513,906**	**1,802,100**
FUND BALANCES				
Non-spendable	-	-	32,649	32,649
Restricted	-	1,071,523	1,672,033	2,743,556
Assigned	402,632	-	-	402,632
Unassigned	962,386	-	-	962,386
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	**$ 1,365,018**	**$ 1,071,523**	**$ 1,704,682**	**$ 4,141,223**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	**$ 2,653,212**	**$ 1,071,523**	**$ 2,218,588**	

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.	$ (19,327)
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	30,381,824
Long-term bonds and capital lease payables are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.	(6,130,000)
Accumulated unused compensated absences	(926,181)
Net pension liability and related deferred outflows and inflows of resources	(6,516,455)
Other postemployment benefits liability and related deferred outflows and inflows of resources	(42,144,681)
NET POSITION (DEFICIT) OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	$ (21,213,597)

Hoosac Valley Regional School District
Assessments to Member Towns, June 30, 2025

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, 2025, the operating and capital assessments are as follows:

	Adams	Cheshire	Total
Operating	$ 5,382,304	$ 2,756,517	$ 8,138,821
Transportation	440,508	135,356	575,864
Capital and debt	661,612	207,124	868,736
Total Assessment	**$ 6,484,424**	**$ 3,098,997**	**$ 9,583,421**

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

	Adams	Cheshire	Total
State required minimum local contribution	$ 4,059,349	$ 2,350,010	$ 6,409,359
Assessment apportioned in accordance with the regional school agreement	2,425,075	748,987	3,174,062
Total Assessment	**$ 6,484,424**	**$ 3,098,997**	**$ 9,583,421**

Hoosac Valley Regional School District
Future Debt Service, June 30, 2025

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

		Governmental Activities	
Year Ending June 30,	**Principal**	**Interest**	**Total**
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	780,000	111,950	891,950
2031 - 2033	2,500,000	172,650	2,672,650
Total	**$ 6,130,000**	**$ 979,350**	**$ 7,109,350**

Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District

McCann Technical School 2025 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 2025 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. 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. We are excited to announce that we have submitted a statement of interest, SOI, to the Massachusetts School Building Authority, MSBA, for the replacement of our 29-year-old roof, the replacement of our original, 1961, single pane exterior glass, and other modifications to the facility to make it ADA accessible. The MSBA has accepted our SOI and their Board will decide its outcome at its August 2025 meeting.

The accomplishments of our students reflect the McCann culture of learning. The class of 2025 was the twenty-first class in a row to attain 100 percent competency determination as designated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). 132 graduates of the class of 2025 saw 45% continue their education in a variety of colleges and universities, 52% enter the workforce, and 2% proudly enter into military service. In 2025 we once again held our commencement exercises at MCLA with 132 graduates and a full campus center audience.

Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year competency determination is no longer based on MCAS scores as a result of the 2024 election results. Competency determination guidance and regulations from the state are forthcoming pending the decision of the Commonwealth's graduation council. In the meantime, districts have set placeholder competency determination measures with McCann choosing to determine competency based on student's performance relative to a schoolwide common set of standards for each course and grade level. The class of 2025 was the 21st class in a row to attain 100 percent competency determination under the previous MCAS requirements.

Beginning in 2025-2026 McCann will accept students consistent with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's regulations for vocational admissions. These regulations require the use of a lottery system as the means for acceptance. McCann will use a weighted lottery system providing students with good attendance records a second lottery entry to increase their chances of acceptance.

Our continuous facility improvement program allowed us to complete the furnishing and equipping of the new HVAC/R facility. We installed new ventilation systems in our cafeteria kitchen and culinary areas.

In the spring of 2025 McCann hosted a District Review visit from Department of Secondary and Elementary Education, DESE. The results were positive with DESE providing valuable feedback to continue moving our programs forward.

Our HVAC/R program moves closer to graduating its first class. 2025-2026 will mark the first junior class with 2027 being the year our first HVAC/R graduates enter the workforce. We added our second HVAC/R instructor this year.

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 4 new Smartboards throughout the building to enhance the use of the latest educational technology.

McCann continued its ongoing participation in SkillsUSA, a national organization of more than 442,000 student and teacher members working to ensure America has a skilled workforce. McCann is a 100% participation 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. McCann's chapter officers attended the annual Fall State Leadership Conference in Marlborough, MA in November to hone their leadership skills. The 2025 SkillsUSA District Competition was proctored virtually at McCann, with students reporting to the library for either a morning or afternoon testing session. McCann students earned fifteen gold medals in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Additive Manufacturing, Architectural Drafting, Carpentry, CNC 3-Axis Milling Programming, Cosmetology, Dental Assisting, Information Technology Services, Sheet Metal, Technical Computer applications, Technical Drafting, Web Design, and Welding. Ten silver medals were awarded in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Carpentry, Cnc 3-Axis Milling Programming, Customer Service, Dental Assisting, Industrial Motor Control, Sheet Metal, Technical Computer Applications, and Technical Drafting. Sixteen bronze medals were also earned in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Additive Manufacturing, Architectural Drafting, Automated Manufacturing, Carpentry, Customer Service, Dental Assisting, Industrial Motor Control, Sheet Metal, Technical Computer applications, and Web Design.

The 2025 SkillsUSA state competition was held in Marlborough, MA in May. McCann students earned five gold medals in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Carpentry, Cosmetology, and Dental Assisting. Two silver medals were awarded to McCann's competitors in Dental Assisting and Sheet Metal. Two bronze medals were also earned by our Additive Manufacturing team. The gold medal winners advanced to the National Skills & Leadership Conference in Atlanta, GA in June. McCann earned a bronze medal in Dental Assisting. We are incredibly proud of our competitors!

Business Professionals of America 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 and prepares students to succeed and assess real-world business skills and problem-solving abilities. 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. Members participate to accomplish its goals of self-improvement, leadership development, professionalism, community service, career development, public relations, student cooperation and safety and health. 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 2025 BPA State Leadership Conference (SLC) in March, McCann BPA members earned three 1st place, two 2nd place, three 3rd place, six 5th place awards in Finance, Business Administration, Management Information systems, Digital Communication and Design, and Management, Marketing and Communications. Qualifiers traveled to Orlando, FL for the National Leadership Conference in May where they had a strong showing placing 1st and 2nd in Interviewing Skills and one 7th place in Fundamental Spreadsheets.

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 2025 school year there were fifty-four seniors placed in co-op positions with thirty-two of our cooperative education industry partners. The senior placement rate was 40% of the senior class during this time period. The junior placement from March-June was thirty-nine placements with twenty-eight of our cooperative education industry partners. The junior placement rate was 30% 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.

The Culinary Arts Department had 7 students from the class of 2024-2025 achieve the Certified Fundamental Cook Certification from the American Culinary Federation and 5 students achieved ServSafe Certification from the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation. These are national certifications recognized across the country.

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. 8 of our underclassmen received level 1 certification and 7 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 9, Revit 18, Maya 4, Inventor 7.
- OnShape Certifications: Certified OnShape Associate 3, Certified OnShape Professional 1.
- Creo: Certified User Exam 1 (This is an exam geared towards industry professionals with at least 10 years of experience)
- SolidWorks: Certified Associate 2.

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.

One Metal Fabrication senior, one junior and one sophomore received a total of four welding certifications in various processes and positions. 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.

McCann athletic programs continued their proud tradition of representing the school well. Students were able to learn valuable, life-long skills through their participation on various sports teams. Highlighting the year were the golf team's undefeated season, the football team's victory of in-town rival Drury in front of over 1,000 spectators, and the installation of a "jumbotron" video screen in the gym to increase fan participation and attendance at winter sporting events.

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 $55,842.00 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 101 electricians completing modules in 2024-2025.

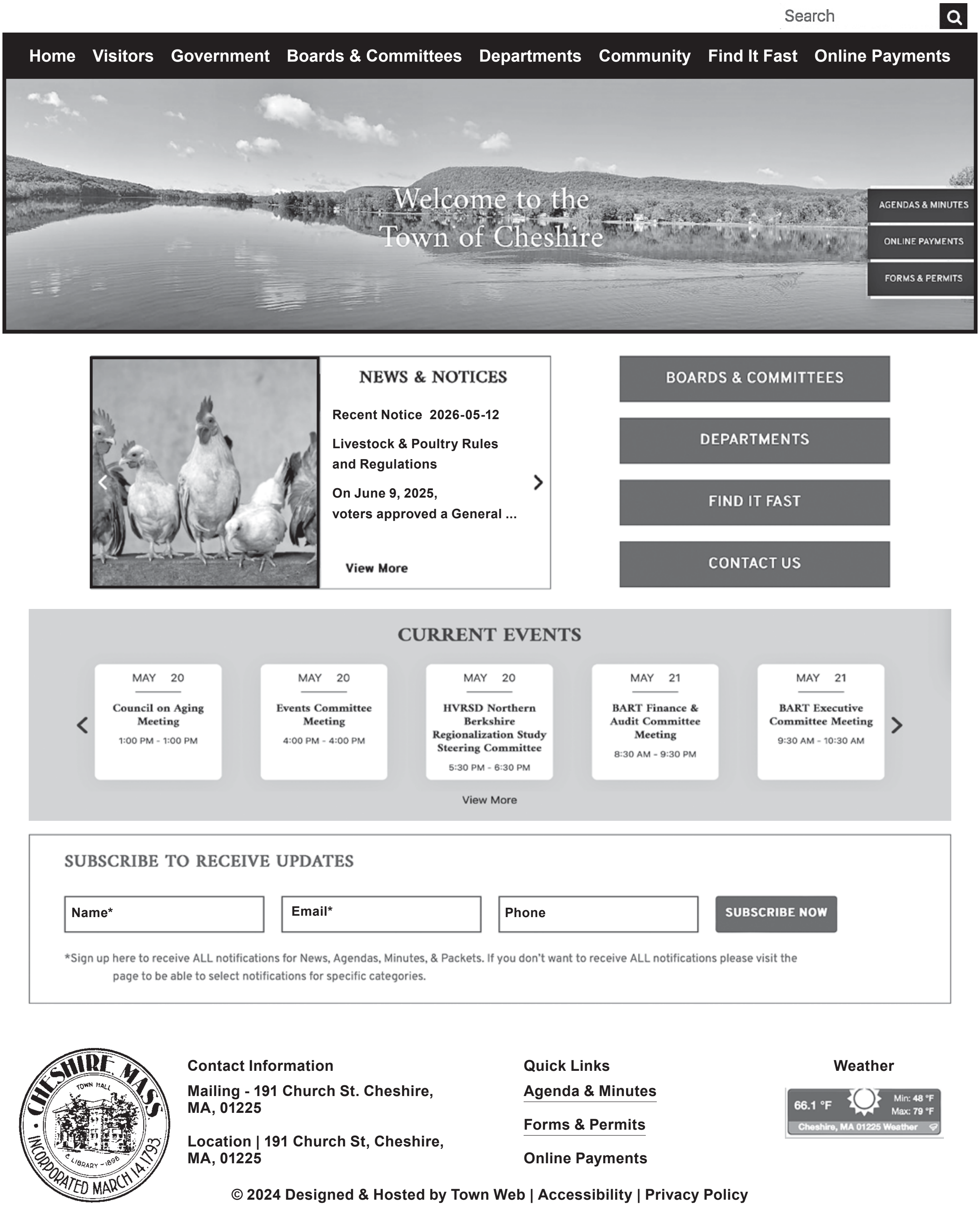
James J. Brosnan
Superintendent

Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District

FY25 Budgeted Revenues	Budget	Actual
City & Town Assessments		
Municipal Minimum	$ 3,906,707.00	$ 3,906,707.00
Capital	15,105.00	15,105.00
Transportation	155,756.00	155,756.00
Municipal Assessment	269,382.00	269,382.00
Ch. 71 Transportation	380,612.00	436,454.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid	7,033,395.00	7,034,602.00
Tuitions	316,186.00	316,186.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	15,743.00	14,536.00
Total Revenue Received	**12,092,886.00**	**12,148,728.00**
Member City & Town Transportation Refunds		(55,842.00)
	$ 12,092,886.00	**$ 12,092,886.00**

Source	Grant	Amount
(Federal Entitlement)		
Fed	Sped IDEA	$ 156,818.58
Fed	Title I	128,359.93
Fed	Title II A	16,845.00
Fed	Title IV	10,000.00
Fed	Perkins	75,610.11
Fed	Perkins Postsecondary Reserve	5,058.00
Fed	ESSER III	7,225.00
(Federal Grants Other)		
REAP		44,050.00
(State Grants)		
MyCap		4,679.00
Workforce Skills Capital		600,000.00
Workforce Skills Capital & Technology		84,150.00
MassHire Berkshire: Connecting Activities		5,000.00
MassHire Berkshire: College & Career		2,600.00
MassStep Culinary Arts NAPS		53,197.54
MA Cultural Council		1,144.77
CTI Planning		44,716.32
CTI Implementation		110,860.42
(Private)		
Private	Olmsted	5,000.00
Private	BHG Wellness	2,000.00
Private	General Dynamics	2,000.00
Private	Mass MoCA Teen Invitational	800.00
Private	Gene Haas Foundation (AMT)	18,000.00
	TOTAL GRANTS	**$ 1,378,114.67**

Cheshire Website - *www.cheshire-ma.gov*



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Recent Notice 2026-05-12

Livestock & Poultry Rules and Regulations

On June 9, 2025, voters approved a General ...

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CURRENT EVENTS

MAY 20	MAY 20	MAY 20	MAY 21	MAY 21
Council on Aging Meeting	Events Committee Meeting	HVRSD Northern Berkshire Regionalization Study Steering Committee	BART Finance & Audit Committee Meeting	BART Executive Committee Meeting
1:00 PM - 1:00 PM	4:00 PM - 4:00 PM	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	8:30 AM - 9:30 PM	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

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Contact Information

Mailing - 191 Church St. Cheshire, MA, 01225

Location | 191 Church St, Cheshire, MA, 01225

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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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Contents

Contacts for Town of Cheshire Services

Voice Mail is available for all the Town Offices — (413) 743-1690 — listed below.

All Town Offices located at The Community House, 191 Church Street (Old Cheshire School)

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

Department	Number + Ext.
Town Administrator	743-1690 ext. 100
Collector	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 Director	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
Treasurer	743-1690 ext. 116
Conservation Commission	743-1690 ext. 117

Cheshire Public Library

23 Depot Street

Monday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Tuesday: 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Wednesday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Thursday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Visit us on: Facebook

Website: ***www.cheshirepubliclibrary.org***

Other Important Contacts

EMERGENCY 9-1-1

Cheshire Police (non-emergency)	743-1501
Cheshire Library	**743-4746**
Cheshire Post Office	**743-3184**
Hoosac Valley Elementary	**743-0876**
Hoosac Valley High School	**743-5200**
Cheshire Town Website:	***www.cheshire-ma.gov***

Election Dates

Cheshire Annual Election:
1st Monday in May.

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

Election info & schedule:
townclerk@cheshire-ma.gov

Cheshire Annual Town Meeting,
held at the Community House cafeteria:
2nd Monday in June.

Town Clerk Hours:
Monday - Wednesday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Cheshire Board of Selectmen
meet each Tuesday evening at the Community House Meeting Room, 6:30 pm until Adjournment.

Cheshire Food Pantry: 1st Saturday of the month

REMINDER (as of July 2026)
Tax Bill Due Dates

1st Payment: Aug. 1	3rd Payment: Feb. 1
2nd Payment: Nov. 1	4th Payment: May 1

collector@cheshire-ma.gov

Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:30 am - 4 pm

Water Bills are three times a year.

Water Collector's hours are printed on bills.

Cheshire Transfer Station

6 Main Street
Wednesday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Friday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Info on Website: ***www.cheshire-ma.gov***

Dog License Information
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.**

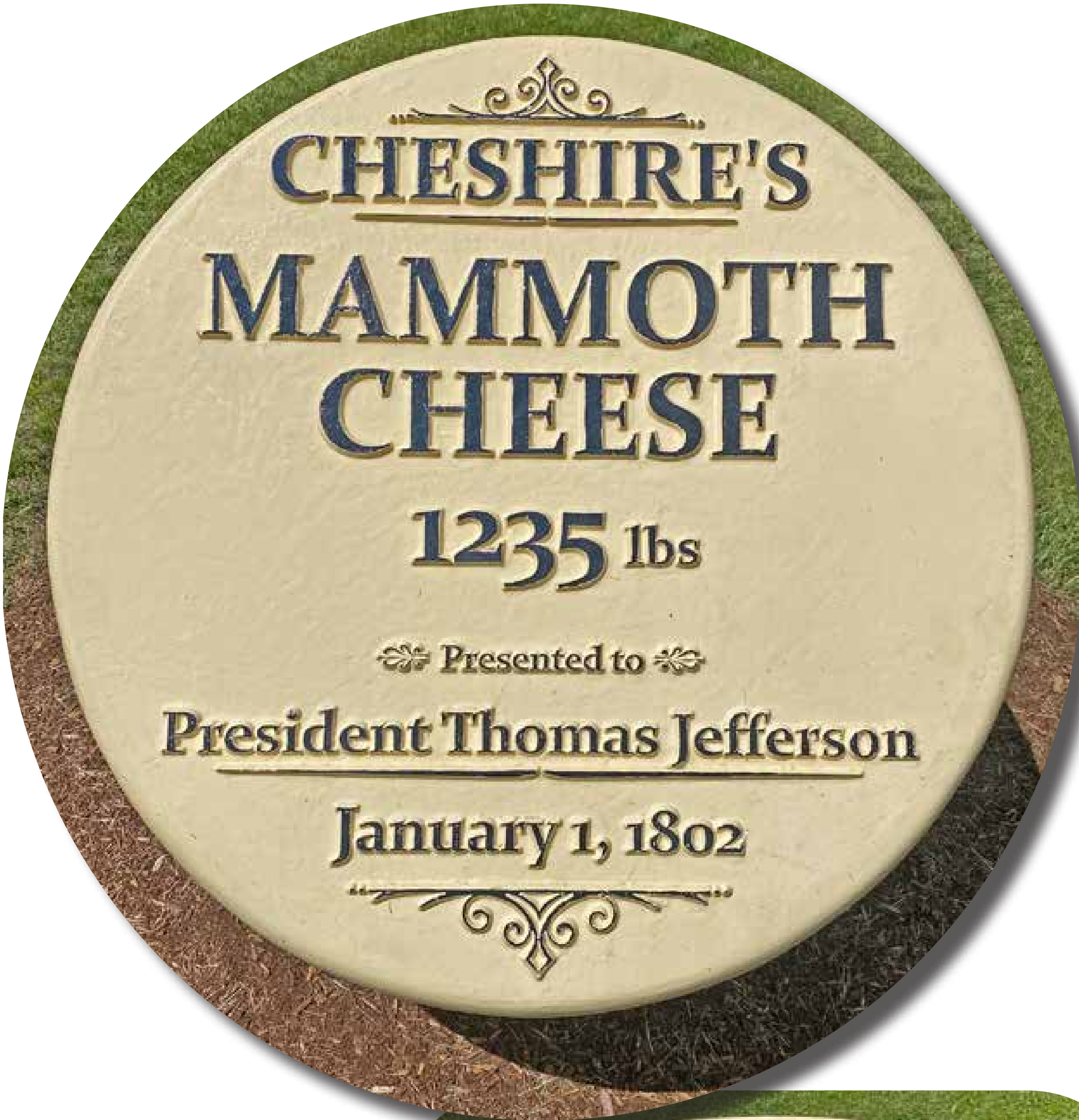
A **pooper-scooper By-law** is also in effect.

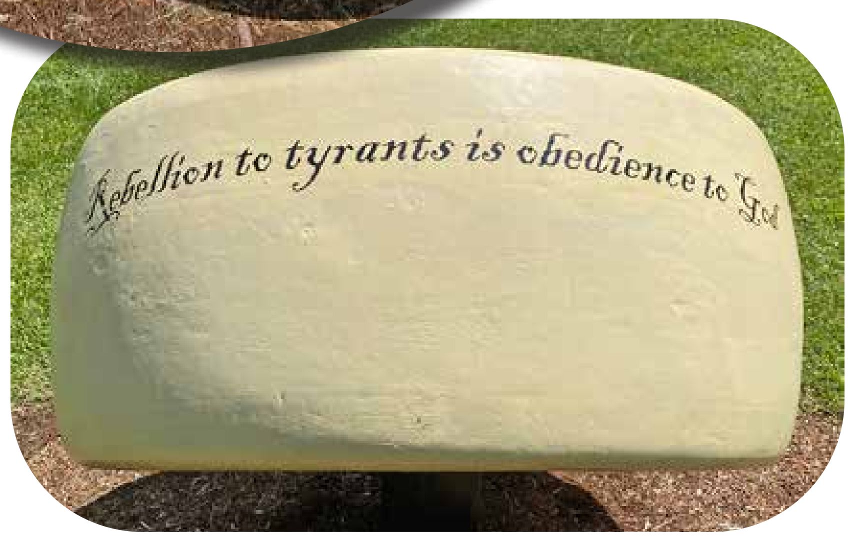
A **barking dog** (outdoors) for more than 15 minutes is subject to a fine.

Cheshire Compactor Stickers

Renewable **JULY 1st.** Stickers are available through the Board of Health.

****Check our website for Employment/Volunteer Opportunities***


CHESHIRE'S
MAMMOTH
CHEESE
1235 lbs
Presented to
President Thomas Jefferson
January 1, 1802


Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God