

TROY BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2023  
TROY TOWN HALL

1 **1. CALL TO ORDER:** *Chairman Chasse called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.*  
2

3 **Selectmen present:** Chairman Chasse, Selectman Thackston, Selectman Hopkins (by  
4 telephone)

5 **Also present:** Mary Guild, Town Administrator  
6

7 **2. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

8 Selectman Thackston had no comments.  
9

10 Selectman Hopkins reported on the recent Planning Board activity. They are reviewing potential  
11 amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding residential solar installations and the ordinance  
12 for additional dwelling units. The Planning Board is also finalizing their survey for distribution.  
13 The public is encouraged to respond for the future of Troy.  
14

15 Selectman Hopkins noticed the Turkey dinner on Saturday November 18, 2023. \$5.00 Takeout  
16 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. or until sell out. Selectman Hopkins Thanked the committee  
17 members for all their hard work, he asked residents to appreciate the hard work and dedication  
18 that the Recreation Committee members put into all the events they sponsor. He encouraged  
19 others to get involved in serving the community.  
20

21 December 1, 2023 Roller skating is scheduled at Troy School.

22 December 9, 2023 Bridge of Joy, location to be determined, options are the Community Center  
23 or the Railroad Depot. The Train car is scheduled to arrive next week.

24 The new ambulance arrives Sunday November 19, 2023, tentatively.  
25

26 **3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

27 Chandler Duhamel of 106 North Main Street, a new homeowner in Troy, was present to speak to  
28 the reassessment of his new home. Due to significant upgrades to the home in the last five years  
29 and to the market value increase that has affected properties state-wide, Mr. Duhamel's  
30 assessment increased dramatically. He spoke on his own behalf of the new assessment being so  
31 much higher than expected. The Board spent a great deal of time explaining the process and the  
32 reasons for this specific increase. Mr. Duhamel also spoke on behalf of other residents in Town  
33 who may experience hardship due to the increase in their property values. Mr. Duhamel was  
34 encouraged to get involved on the Town committees. He was encouraged to seek any tax credits  
35 he may be eligible for.  
36

37 Mr. Leonard Turner, Monadnock Street, spoke of his property's reassessment as well. He was  
38 given the same explanations, although his property assessment increased much less than Mr.  
39 Duhamel's as there have been no upgrades to his property in the last 5 years. The reassessment  
40 is based on multiple factors, not the least of which is the market value of the property.  
41

42 Police Chief David Ellis asked for an explanation of the difference between an appraisal and an  
43 assessment. It was explained to him that an assessment of property is issued by a certified  
44 Assessor hired by the Town and an appraisal is something a bank or a real estate agent may use  
45 to determine market value. Most often the appraisal will show a higher value than the  
46 assessment.

47 Mr. Courtney Davis submitted a proposal for the Town's use of his driver and 6-wheel dump  
48 truck for the upcoming season. The proposal is for 100 hours at a total of \$12,000. Should the  
49 seasonal usage be less than 100 hours, Mr. Davis will allow the Town to use the truck to the total  
50 hours with additional tasks in the spring and summer of 2024. The Board will consider the  
51 proposal when Mr. Coons, Road Agent, presents his budget requests.  
52

53 **4. BUDGET REQUESTS:**

54 A. Cemetery Trustees - Mrs. Diane Lepisto presented the cemetery requests for the 2024  
55 budget. The budget has been increased significantly. There is a need to replace longtime  
56 employee, George Mason, as he would like to retire. The budget proposed is set at \$53,523.  
57

58 **MOTION** to accept the Cemetery budget, as presented, Selectman Thackston, **SECOND** by  
59 Selectman Hopkins. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**  
60

61 B. Highway – Mr. John Coons presented the proposed budget for the Highway Department.  
62 The requested total is \$483,889. **MOTION** to amend the request, to accommodate Mr. Davis's  
63 proposal, to \$495,889, Selectman Thackston, **SECOND** by Selectman Hopkins. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**  
64

65 **MOTION** to accept the Highway Department 2024 budget request as amended, Selectman  
66 Thackston, **SECOND** by Selectman Hopkins. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**  
67

68 There was discussion regarding a truck that Mr. Coons has investigated that meets the Warrant  
69 Article criteria, except for the price. The Board determined that a Special Town Meeting should  
70 be held to request an increase in the amount of money required to purchase the replacement  
71 vehicle.  
72

73 C. Transfer Station – Mr. John Coons presented the proposed 2024 budget for the Transfer  
74 Station. **MOTION** to approve the requests for the Transfer Station budget, as presented,  
75 Selectman Thackston, **SECOND** by Selectman Hopkins. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**  
76

77 **5. NEW BUSINESS:**

78 A. Demolition Permit Application, M1 L5 – Removal of Mobile Home  
79 **MOTION** to approve the application, as submitted, Selectman Thackston, **SECOND** by  
80 Selectman Hopkins. **VOTES: 3-0-0.** Selectman Hopkins requests certification of disposal.  
81

82 B. Equalization/Ratio Study Certification – The study has determined a 95% equalization ratio  
83 for Town of Troy properties overall. **MOTION** to approve the certification, as submitted,  
84 Selectman Thackston, **SECOND** by Selectman Hopkins. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**  
85

86 C. Current Use Tax –

87 1. M26, L14 - **MOTION** to approve the Current Use Tax, Map 26, Lot 14, \$4,900,  
88 Selectman Thackston, **SECOND** by Selectman Hopkins. **VOTES: 3-0-0.** The building  
89 has been completed and found satisfactory when inspected by all required parties.  
90

91 2. M26, L14 A - **MOTION** to approve the Current Use Tax, Map 26, Lot 14 A, \$4,200,  
92 Selectman Thackston, **SECOND** by Selectman Hopkins. **VOTES: 3-0-0.** The building  
93 has been completed and found satisfactory when inspected by all required parties.  
94

95 **6. OLD BUSINESS:**

96 A. Building Permit Application, M20, L6 – Mr. Bobbie Joel Parker was present to request  
97 approval to construct a barn on his property to house livestock kept on the property. No one  
98

95 lives at the property currently, although he has been staying on the property to keep an eye on the  
 96 animals. **MOTION** to approve the application as submitted, Selectman Thackston, **SECOND**  
 97 by Selectman Hopkins. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**

98 B. Purchasing Policy – **MOTION** to approve the purchasing policy, as submitted, Selectman  
 99 Thackston, **SECOND** by Selectman Hopkins. **VOTES: 3-0-0.** The newly adopted Town of  
 100 Troy Purchasing Policy will be distributed to all department heads and can be found on the  
 101 Town’s website.  
 102

103 **7. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE:** Mr. Carl Patten, Bigelow Hill Road submitted a request for  
 104 information regarding placement of a mobile home on Richmond Road. The mobile home is a  
 105 temporary residence until the owner of the property has completed a new home. Mr. Patten was  
 106 satisfied with the response, as stated in his reply.  
 107

108 Information received this afternoon was distributed to the Board of Selectmen. The information  
 109 is from Cheshire County Commissioner Chris Coates, in response to statements made by the  
 110 Keene Fire Department representatives in reference to the Cheshire County EMS. The  
 111 correspondence is *attached to these minutes*.  
 112

113 At this point in the meeting, The Board of Selectmen accepted a demolition permit application  
 114 from Mr. Eric Farris for portions of several structures at the Mill and selective demolition of  
 115 interior portions. **MOTION** to approve the application, as submitted, Selectman Thackston,  
 116 **SECOND** by Selectman Hopkins. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**  
 117

118 The Board also reviewed a grant application and an agreement between Mountain View Mill,  
 119 LLC, and the Town of Troy, to assist in the demolition project at the Mill. **MOTION** to approve  
 120 the grant submission, Selectman Thackston, **SECOND** by Selectman Hopkins. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**  
 121

122 **MOTION** to appoint Chairman Chasse as the designated signer of the agreement, Selectman  
 123 Thackston, **SECOND** by Selectman Hopkins. **VOTES: 2-0-1.** Chairman Chasse abstained.  
 124

125 **8. CONSENT AGENDA:**

126 A. Recent Manifests –

| Payroll & Accounts Payable Manifests to be Approved |            |            |               |   |
|---|------------|------------|---------------|---|
| PR  | W/E Date   | Check Date | Total         | Notes   |
|   | 11/5/2023  | 11/13/2023 | \$ 17,862.39  |   |
|   | 11/12/2023 | 11/20/2023 | \$ 19,585.06  |   |
|   |            |            |               |   |
| AP  | NA         | 11/2/2023  | \$ 209,087.14 | INCLUDES OCTOBER SCHOOL PYMT \$172,388.05 (HOLDING) |
|   | NA         | 11/6/2023  | \$ 12,115.47  |   |
|   | NA         | 11/8/2023  | \$ 2,322.02   |   |
|   | NA         | 11/13/2023 | \$ 115.47     |   |
|   | NA         | 11/16/2023 | \$ 41,223.06  | INCLUDES 2ND PYMT FOR REASSESSMENT \$17,500         |

127  
 128 **MOTION** to approve the recent manifests, as submitted, Selectman Hopkins, **SECOND** by  
 129 Selectman Thackston. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**

130 A. Previous Meeting Minutes –

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- 1. **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2023 Board of Selectmen meeting, as written, Selectman Hopkins, **SECOND** by Selectman Thackston. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**
- 2. **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2023 Non-Public Session, Board of Selectmen meeting, as written, Selectman Thackston, **SECOND** by Selectman Hopkins. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**

9. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:** None

10. **NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2023 5:00 p.m.**

11. **NON-PUBLIC SESSION, NH RSA 91-A:II (e):**

**MOTION** to enter Non-Public Session under NHRSA 91-A:II (e), Selectman Thackston, **SECOND** by Selectman Hopkins. **By roll call vote: Chasse, Yes; Hopkins, Yes; Thackston, Yes.** The Board entered Non-Public Session at 7:15 p.m.

**MOTION** to exit Non-Public Session, Selectman Thackston, **SECOND** by Selectman Hopkins. **By roll call vote: Chasse, Yes; Hopkins, Yes; Thackston, Yes.** The Board entered Non-Public Session at 7:29 p.m.

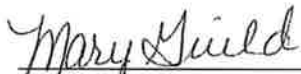
While in Non-Public Session, the Board discussed current litigation against the Town of Troy.

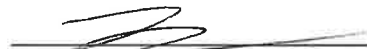
Selectman Thackston asked the Board members if they were in agreement with dedication of the 2023 Town Annual Report to Gerald Callahan. All confirmed. Selectman Thackston will produce a dedication statement for the report.

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION** to adjourn the meeting Selectman Thackston, **SECOND** by Selectman Hopkins. **VOTES: 3-0-0.**

*The Board of Selectmen meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.*

**TROY SELECT BOARD:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Guild, Town Administrator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TJ Chasse, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Curtis Hopkins

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard H. Thackston, III



# County of Cheshire

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12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431  
[www.co.cheshire.nh.us](http://www.co.cheshire.nh.us)

## Press Release

The Cheshire County Commissioners are greatly disappointed with the inaccuracies and falsehoods that were recently quoted in the Keene Sentinel and InDepthNH. The individuals who were quoted in the Keene Sentinel and InDepthNH articles know very little about the process, procedures, and due diligence that were carefully followed by the County in order to receive and expend American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Tyler Boucher's allegations quoted in those articles are simply incorrect.

ARPA fund recipients are authorized use ARPA funds in any way that falls within broad categories of funding. Under the final rule established by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the County determined that providing EMS services to the community by building Cheshire EMS met at least two of the four categories of permitted uses under ARPA: (1) responding to the public health and negative impacts of the pandemic; and (2) providing government services to the extent of revenue loss due to the pandemic.

County officials' intent has always been to provide EMS services which were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The initial strategy of acquiring the DiLuzio Ambulance Service assets raised no objection from Mr. Boucher nor the Keene Fire Chief. Unfortunately, the County's purchase of DiLuzio's assets could not come to fruition due to conditions that were uncovered during pre-purchase due diligence. The county then stayed the course and established Cheshire EMS. If Cheshire EMS had not been created, upwards of 17 towns, and the City of Keene would be without some form of service, whether that be 9-1-1 ambulance service, without paramedic intercept and back-up ambulance services, and there would be no local ambulance service that would provide ambulance transfers to and from hospitals and skilled care facilities within the community. The already fragile and stressed regional EMS system would have truly been on the brink of collapse.

Every policy decision regarding the use of ARPA funds was made on the record in public sessions based on the sound advice of our legal counsel. Local officials, state legislators, and our Congressional delegation were kept informed every step of the way. We continue to provide regular, timely reports to the federal government on the use of the funds are confident that we are in total compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements. We are proud of how we spent our ARPA dollars, and would be more than happy to review this baseless claim with the Department of the Treasury if they see fit.

As of November 16, 2023, County officials have not received a copy of the alleged complaint submitted to the Department of the Treasury. Multiple reporters have received the complaint, but disclosed to County officials that they were instructed by sources to **not** release it to the County.

The timing of the alleged complaint indicates that its filing coincided with lengthy negotiation between the County and City of Keene which Keene Fire Chief Farquhar attended. The

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### Area Code 603

♦ **County Commissioners** 352-8215/Fax 355-3026 ♦ **Registry of Deeds** 352-0403/Fax 352-7678 ♦ **Finance Department** 355-0154/Fax 355-3000 - 12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431 ♦ **County Sheriff** 352-4238/Fax 355-3020 ♦ **County Attorney** 352-0056/Fax 355-3012 - 12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431 ♦ **Alternative Sentencing/Mental Health Court** 355-0160/Fax 355-0159 - 33 West St. Keene N.H. ♦ **Department of Corrections** 825 Marlboro Street, Keene, 03431 - 903-1600/Fax 352-4044 ♦ **Maplewood Nursing Home & Assisted Living** 399-4912/Fax 399-7005 - TTY Access 1-800-735-2964 ♦ **Facilities** 399-7300/Fax 399-7357 ♦ **Human Resources** 399-7317/399-7378/Fax 399-4429 - 201 River Rd, Westmoreland, NH 03467



# County of Cheshire

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12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431  
[www.co.cheshire.nh.us](http://www.co.cheshire.nh.us)

negotiations culminated in a verbal agreement for Cheshire EMS to provide backup EMS services and paramedic intercepts to the City of Keene and the City's contracted towns. It appears Chief Farquhar was actively working with others to submit a baseless complaint with grossly incorrect information about the County's EMS initiative while negotiations for EMS services were ongoing with the City of Keene. Chief Farquhar's actions in his official and individual capacity are troubling to say the least.

The EMS system in Cheshire County that exists today is much stronger due to the creation of Cheshire EMS. We will continue to work with our local governments, hospital, and private sector partners to provide the citizens of Cheshire County with prompt, professional service and high-quality patient care.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Coates, Cheshire County Administrator

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