

Minutes of the Town of chesterfield Regular Board Meeting Held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at Town of Chesterfield Office, 1 Vine Street, Keeseville, County of Essex and State of New York, Pursuant to Due Notice.

Supervisor Barber called the Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those Present:

Supervisor: Clayton Barber
Town Clerk: Bruce Bourgeois
Councilman: David Gload
Councilman: Patrick "Bill" Mitchell
Councilman: Harrison Blaise
Supt. of HW: John "Jay" Champine
Water Supt: Dave Winter
Town Attorney: Mark Cowen

Councilman Casey was excused.

Guests Present:

Mike Francia Ted Sill Aubrey Bresett Ken Bruno
Walter Chmura Barbara Donela Karen Roy Romeyn Prescott
Eileen Bruno Maron English Sue Crowningshield Tamera Mrose
Zoanne Schnell Christine Facteau Becky Bassett Matt Lavallee

Upon a motion by Councilman Gload and seconded by Councilman Mitchell and unanimously carried it was

#58 Resolved: To waive the reading and accept the Minutes of the February 10, 2026 Regular Board Meeting and the Public Hearing minutes of February 26, 2026.

Supervisor Barber introduced Ausable Valley Superintendent Francia to explain the budget issues for the coming year.

Mr. Francia explained due to foundation aid, declining enrollment, increasing assessments, keeping COVID hired employees after funding ran out, among other, the school is looking to go over the 6% tax cap allowed by NY State. There are no final numbers yet but the school is cutting staff through attrition and combining classes, moving the 6th grade to the high school.

Mr. Francia answered many questions from the public concerning school closings, insurance and pay compensation and the financial outlook for the future. Matt Lavalley asked about the wood chip heaters at the school and asked why they were not being used. Mr. Francia stated they were used in colder weather. Mr Lavalley was quite upset at this, disagreeing that the heaters were not used at all.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board, with the rising expense to Town of Chesterfield residents, he would like to offer a resolution requesting relief from NYSEG.

Upon a motion by Supervisor Barber and seconded by Councilman Mitchell and unanimously carried it was

#59 WHEREAS, residents, seniors, and small businesses in the Town of Chesterfield are experiencing unsustainable, repeated, and compounding increases in electrical bills that are placing a growing financial strain on households and the local economy; and

WHEREAS, a substantial portion of these increases is attributable not to increased energy consumption, but to escalating delivery charges, fees and approved rate adjustments imposed by NYSEG; and

WHEREAS, electric delivery charges and rate structures are regulated and approved by the New York State Public Service Commission, which is statutorily charged with ensuring that utility rates are just, reasonable, and affordable for ratepayers, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has received numerous complaints from residents who are struggling to afford basic electrical service and who have expressed serious concern regarding the frequency, magnitude, and lack of transparency surrounding recent and ongoing rate increases, and

WHEREAS, rural and low-density communities such as the Town of Chesterfield are disproportionately impacted by delivery charge increases and cost-recovery mechanisms that fail to adequately account for affordability, equity, and the cumulative burden placed on ratepayers, and

WHEREAS, the Town board finds the continued approval of rate increases without stronger cost controls, greater transparency, and meaningful affordability protections is unacceptable and contrary to the public interest; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town board of the Town of Chesterfield formally and strongly urges the New York State Public Service Commission to conduct a thorough and immediate review of electric delivery charges, rate increases, and cost-recovery practices applicable to NYSEG customers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board calls upon the Public service Commission to prioritize ratepayer affordability, demand greater transparency from NYSEG, and require demonstrable cost-containment and operational efficiency measures before approving any future rate increases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board expressly opposes continued or automatic rate increases that shift rising operational, infrastructure, and administrative costs onto taxpayers without clear justification or adequate protection for rural communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized and directed to submit formal complaints, written comments, and supporting documentation to the New York Public Service Commission on behalf of the Town and its residents, objecting to excessive electric costs and requesting regulatory intervention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the New York State Public Service Commission, NYSEG, the Governor of the State of New York, members of the New York Legislature, and neighboring municipalities served by NYSEG, and to encourage coordinated action among affected towns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the Town needs to amend the Hazard Mitigation Plan originally adopted August 12, 2025.

Upon a motion by Supervisor Barber and seconded by Councilman Gload and passed by roll call vote

Supervisor Barber: AYE

Councilman Gload: AYE

Councilman Mitchell: AYE

Councilman Blaise: AYE

Town of Chesterfield

Amended Resolution #2026-60

A Resolution Amending the Date of Adoption for the Essex County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2025, the Town board of the Town of Chesterfield adopted the Essex County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation plan (HMP) Update, in anticipation of receiving final federal approval; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) and the

Federal emergency Management Agency (FEMA) later completed their review and issued an Approval Pending Adoption (APA) letter for the Essex County HMP on October 10, 2025 ; and

WHEREAS, FEMA requires that jurisdictions adopt the HMP after the APA letter has been issued to remain eligible for Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant funding; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Town of Chesterfield to formally amend the adoption date to reflect compliance with FEMA adoption requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Chesterfield hereby:

1. Rescinds the prior resolution adopted on August 12, 2025 for the Essex County HMP Update for procedural correction.
2. Formally adopts the Essex County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation plan Update as of March 10, 2026, following FEMA's APA designation dated October 10, 2025.
3. Affirms its continued commitment to implement the hazard mitigation actions and strategies outlined in the Plan, subject to funding availability and jurisdictional priorities.

4. Recognizes that this amendment ensures full compliance with FEMA requirements under the Disaster Mitigation Act Of 2000.

Adopted this 10th day of March 2026 by the Town Board of the Town of Chesterfield.

Certification

I, Bruce Bourgeois, Town Clerk of the Town of Chesterfield do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Chesterfield at its meeting held on March 10, 2026, as it appears in the official minutes.

Bruce Bourgeois

Town Clerk

March 11, 2026

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the new Water Department employee is working out well so far. The extra help is much appreciated especially with all the issues with water and hopefully the Town is seeing light at the end of the tunnel.

Supervisor Barber opened the floor to public officials.

Town clerk Bourgeois presented the February Clerk Report to the Board. He offered a brief summary of scheduled events for the Keeseville 250 Celebration including a parade, free community picnic, fireworks, bands, craft fair, etc. Clerk Bourgeois recognized the Town of Chesterfield Water Department, specifically Water Superintendent Winter for doing such a spectacular job responding to water users in this particularly difficult time.

Councilman Gload noted the Town is progressing with zombie properties but need to be aware of zombie vehicles as well.

Councilman Blaise recognized Town Clerk Bourgeois for his quick response on Face Book to water users' concerns and comments.

Highway Superintendent Champine reported, as of today, CHIPS money is the same as last year and the Town of Willsboro may opt in to help purchase the new bucket truck. Willsboro is waiting for their Board's approval.

Supervisor Barber opened the floor to the public.

Walter Chmura asked if there would be brush pick up his spring. Supervisor barber told him he was working on a schedule to announce at the April Board meeting.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board he received a call from Sun Community newspaper concerning the Town parking lot behind the Front Street Fellowship Church. The public hearing on February 24 was well attended and the project has positive reviews. Supervisor Barber noted people are parking there already.

Town Attorney Cowen noted the closing for 93 Kent Street should be complete by the end of March or early April. Town Attorney Cowen has completed all the paperwork on the purchase for need of a SEQRA, requirements of permissive referendums, historic district requirements, etc.

Town Clerk Bourgeois questioned his obligation to file the paperwork completed by the Town Attorney. Town Attorney Cowen advised the Clerk to simply file all paperwork in the Town Clerk's office.

Upon a motion by Councilman Gload and seconded by Councilman Blaise and unanimously carried it was

#61 WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Chesterfield, County of Essex, State of New York (the "Town"), is considering the acquisition of approximately .27 acres of real property located at 93 Kent Street, Keeseville, New York, identified as Tax Map No. 4.37-3-8.003 (the "Property"), and the subsequent construction of a municipal parking facility thereon (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Project is an "Action" as the term is defined under the New York state environmental Quality Review Act (Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law) and its implementing regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617 promulgated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; and

WHEREAS, the Town board has reviewed the criteria contained in 6 NYCRR 617.4 and 617.5 and hereby determines the Project is classified as an Unlisted Action; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has declared its intent to serve as the Lead Agency for purpose of SEQRA review of the Project and, where required, has coordinated such designation with other involved agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds that no other governmental agency has jurisdiction by law to approve, fund, or undertake this action, and therefore, the Town Board is the sole involved agency for purposes of SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has caused to be prepared and has reviewed a Short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) including Parts 1, 2 and 3 (with full long form narrative) thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has carefully considered the potential environmental impacts of the Project including, but not limited to: traffic and access impacts, storm water management and drainage, impervious surface coverage, noise and lighting, visual character, consistency with the Town Comprehensive Plan, historic, archeological and natural resource considerations, and cumulative impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has taken a "hard look" at the potential environmental impacts of the Project as required by law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town board hereby determines that the proposed acquisition and construction of a municipal parking facility at the Property will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts; determination based on the Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1,2 and 3, the absence of moderate to large impacts identified in Part 2, the narrative analysis set forth in Part 3, the inclusion of storm water management measures in compliance with NYS requirements, and the limited scale and nature of the Project; accordingly, the Town Board issues a

Negative Declaration pursuant to SEQRA and authorizes the Project to proceed to the next stage of approval.

Supervisor Barber presented a letter to the Board from the Keeseville Community Development Corporation requesting \$800 from each of the Towns of Ausable and Chesterfield to purchase flowers, planters and supplies for the Keeseville area. There was some discussion to wait for the Town of Ausable's decision or to offer a different amount.

Upon a motion by Councilman Blaise and seconded by Councilman Gload and unanimously carried it was

#62 Resolved: To approve the funding of \$500 from ROOST funds to Keeseville Community Development Corporation for flowers and supplies for the beautification of the Front street, Keeseville area.

Water Superintendent Winter gave an update on the Town of Chesterfield Water District issues. The flushing of hydrants are going well but subject to temperature and weather conditions. The New York Health Department has been in constant contact and is aware of the situation. The issue of discoloration may be a harbinger of future seasonal changes.

Supervisor Barber gave an update on the Thompson Road property. There is a possibility of another up to 17 more homes on the backside of Commerce Park. He requested a resolution of support for the Land Bank.

Upon a motion by Supervisor Barber and seconded by Councilman Gload and passed by roll call vote

Supervisor Barber: AYE

Councilman Gload: AYE

Councilman Mitchell: AYE

Councilman Blaise: AYE

#63 WHEREAS, the Essex County Land Bank desires to apply for financial assistance through MOVE-IN NY Program and;

WHEREAS, the application proposes funding to support the purchase and installation of manufactured "Crossmod" homes in various sites throughout the Town of Chesterfield, county of Essex; and

WHEREAS, the proposed funding will contribute to ongoing affordable housing development efforts; and

WHEREAS, the program application requires the applicant obtain the approval and endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the proposed project will be located; and

WHEREAS, the program application further requires that the governing body of the municipality in which the proposed project will be located affirm its understanding of the "CrossMod" manufactured housing typology and its ability to approve siting and installation of HUD Code manufactured housing within the community without special use permits or other administrative approval processes that present an obstacle for permitting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Chesterfield, Essex County, New York, hereby approved and endorses the application for assistance prepared and to be submitted by the Essex County Land Bank to the New York State Homes and Community Renewal MOVE-IN NY Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board affirms its understanding of the “ CrossMod” manufactured typology and its commitment to approving and expediting the siting and installation of manufactured “CrossMod” homes within the community.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the 2026 budget that was passed included \$15,000 from ROOST funds for the United States 250 Celebration. The Board needs to formally approve this. Town Clerk Bourgeois gave a brief rundown of costs for the weeklong celebration in July including a parade, bands, fireworks, etc.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mitchell and seconded by Councilman Gload and unanimously carried it was

#64 Resolved: To approve the use of ROOST Funds, not to exceed \$15,000 for the Keeseville Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mitchell and seconded by Councilman Blaise and unanimously carried it was

#65 Resolved: To accept the Supervisor’s Financial Report for February 2026, a copy of which can be found in the Town Clerk’s office.

Upon a motion by Councilman Gload and seconded by Councilman Blaise and unanimously carried it was

#66 Resolved: To accept all water billing and adjustments from February 10, 2026 to March 9, 2026.

Upon a motion by Councilman Blaise and seconded by Councilman Gload and unanimously carried it was

#67 Resolved: To pay all bills, including credit card bills, received since February 10, 2026. Bills amounting to \$32,378.22 were audited and paid from the General Fund. Bills amounting to \$126,591.48 were audited and paid from the Highway Fund. Bills amounting to \$215,708.50 were audited and paid from TCWD. Bills amounting to \$3,503.60 were audited and paid from the Port Kent Water District. Bills amounting to \$2,273.08 were audited and paid from Village Debt. Bills amounting to \$1,000.00 were audited and paid from ROOST. Bills amounting to \$978.80 were audited and paid from the Compaction Station. Bills amounting to \$900.00 were audited and paid from the TCWD Project. The total of all bills received since February 10, 2026 equals \$383,333.68.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mitchell and seconded by Supervisor Barber and unanimously carried it was

#68 Resolved: To accept all bank reconciliations to March 9, 2026.

Upon a motion by Councilman Gload and seconded by Councilman Blaise and unanimously carried it was

#69 Resolved: To file all letters presented to this Board.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mitchell and seconded by Councilman Gload and unanimously carried it was

#70 Resolved: To audit and accept all budget amendments to March 9, 2026.

Upon a motion by Councilman Gload and seconded by Councilman Blaise and unanimously carried it was

#71 Resolved: That with no other business to come before this Board, the Town board Meeting of March 10, 2026 be adjourned at 7:48 PM.