

Minutes of the Regular Town of Chesterfield Board Meeting Held on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at the Town of Chesterfield Office, 1 Vine Street, Keeseville, County of Essex, 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 from the Board
Councilman: David Gload
Councilman: Patrick “Bill” Mitchell
Councilman: John Casey
Town Attorney: Mark Cowen
Supt of HW: John “Jay” Champine
Code Officer: Trent Gravelle

Guests Present:

Zoanne Schnell	Walter Chmura	Tamera Mrose
Harrison Blaise	Crystal Call	Sasha Call
Romeyn Prescott	Gordon Howard	
Margaret Sheehey	John Lacy	
Ashley Wilfore		

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

#147 Resolved: To accept the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on August 12, 2025 and the reading of those minutes be waived.

Supervisor Barber questioned the Board on their thoughts on the various parties interested to purchase the parcel on the Thompson Road owned by the Town after their presentations at the August, 2025 Board Meeting.

Councilman Gload stated he was leaning towards the Land Bank as it is a better long-term benefit for the Town with land tax income.

Councilman Casey added the Land Bank is the party that will pay for the utility infrastructure and there would be no burden to Town of Chesterfield taxpayers.

Supervisor Barber concurred and stated the Land Bank wanted to construct 6 homes by end of 2026 and may continue into Commerce Park. The Town of Chesterfield would need to hold a public referendum to allow the transfer Town property.

Councilman Gload asked to see examples of the properties in Jay and Ticonderoga the Land Bank has built. Supervisor Barber will invite a representative to come to October's meeting.

Supervisor Barber opened up the floor to Public Officials.

Town Clerk Bourgeois presented the Board with the August Clerk Report and gave a brief synopsis on the Keeseville 250 Celebration. The Keeseville Holiday Committee will begin in October. Highway Superintendent Champine requested a walkthrough to make sure the new Holiday decorations will have sufficient power.

Highway Superintendent Champine informed the Board a box culvert is needed on Augur Lake Road. Essex County is aware of the situation.

Supervisor Barber opened the floor for public comment.

Walter Chmura asked if there were plans or coordination with the Town of Ausable for the ice rink on Liberty and Main Streets. Town Clerk Bourgeois suggested everything is constrained by weather. Mr. Chmura requested an update on signs welcoming visitors to Keeseville. Supervisor Barber responded Skip Smithson volunteered to make them and is making a plan for them to be submitted for approval.

Margaret Sheehy announced a "meet the candidate forum" to be held at the Ausable Valley Grange in October and introduced Zoanne Schnell as a write-in candidate for Councilman.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the Town has received one bid for the Salt Shed Electrical Project and asked Town Clerk Bourgeois to open the sealed bid.

Town Clerk opened the bid from Casey Electrical for \$32,030.00 and read the details of the bid. Highway Superintendent Champine asked if there was a date to be completed. There was not.

Upon a motion by Supervisor Barber and seconded by Councilman Gload and carried with Councilman Casey abstaining it was

#148 Resolved: To award the Salt Shed Electrical Bid to Casey Electrical for \$32,030.00 with work to be completed as quickly as possible.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board Brooke Champine is working to complete her court classes for certification. Right now, she can only work on traffic tickets. She has until the end of the year to complete them. Supervisor Barber is also sending her to help organize at the Town Highway Garage.

Supervisor Barber announced the Board completed their first budget workshop, discussing payroll, on September 8. The minimum wage is increasing by 3.1%. Insurance from Excellus is attempting to gain a

19.6% increase and Hartford retirement plan is seeking a 15% increase. Supervisor Barber set the next budget workshop for September 16 at 5:00 PM. He requested a resolution setting the public hearing for the 2026 Tentative Budget.

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

#149 Resolved: To schedule the Public Hearing on the 2026 Tentative Town of Chesterfield Budget on October 14, 2025 at 5:30 PM with Town Clerk Bourgeois posting due notice.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board he attended a zoom call meeting with a company looking to sign a contract with the Town of Chesterfield to enable town-wide texts in case of emergencies or announcements. At a cost of \$2,000 to \$4,000 a year. Romeyn Prescott asked if the Town already has access to NY State alerts? No one on the Board could answer that. Supervisor Barber noted the new radio station, Town website and Town Face Book page already provide that benefit free. The Board did not have interest in doing business with this company at this time.

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

#150 Resolved: To accept the Town of Chesterfield's Supervisor's Report for August 2025, a copy of which can be found in the Town Clerk's office.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board Water Superintendent Winter would like to purchase a new motor for the Water Department's cement mixer. He has gotten a price of \$575 from Northern Tool. Highway Superintend Champine added that is only one delivery charge from a company to have concrete delivered for a project. Town Clerk asked if this was within the constraints of the Town of Chesterfield Procurement Policy. Supervisor Barber responded that it was.

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

#151 Resolved: To authorize a purchase of a Briggs & Stratton Engine for the Town of Chesterfield Water Department's cement mixer for a price of \$575.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board Anderson Falls Historical Society submitted a request for funds and a budget for 2026. The request is \$6600, the same as last year.

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

#152 Resolved: To accept Anderson Falls Historical Society's budget and request for funds for 2026.

Supervisor Barber requested a motion to keep retired Councilman Klages' position vacant until January 2026. The time the position is vacant is too short to appoint an interim Councilman.

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

#153 Resolved: To not appoint an interim Councilman and keep the position most recently held by the resignation of Councilman Richard Klages vacant until a newly elected Councilman takes their Oath of Office in January 2026.

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

#154 Resolved: To accept water billing and adjustments for the period of August 12, 2025 to September 8, 2025.

Upon a motion by Councilman Gload and seconded by Councilman Casey it was

#155 Resolved: To pay all bills, including credit card usage, received since August 12, 2025. Bills in the amount of \$46,632.15 were audited and paid from the General Fund. Bills in the amount of \$279,397.54 were audited and paid from the Highway Fund. Bills in the amount of \$16,915.92 were audited and paid from the Town of Chesterfield Water District. Bills in the amount of \$2,365.01 were audited and paid from the Port Kent Water District. Bills in the amount of \$2,048.00 were audited and paid from the Village Debt. Bills in the amount of \$2,378.16 were audited and paid from the Compaction Station. Bills in the amount of \$217,065.55 were audited and paid from the TCWD Project. Total of all bills received since August 12, 2025 were \$566,802.33.

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

#156 Resolved: To accept all bank reconciliations for the month of August 2025.

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

#157 Resolved: That all letters brought before this Board be filed.

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

#158 Resolved: To enter into Executive Session to discuss water issues at 6:44 PM.

The Board entered regular session at 7:04 PM with no decisions made.

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

#159 Resolved: To settle water issues as discussed including extending the contract with Harmony Golf Course for one year to expire on July 31, 2026 for up to 3 million gallons of water over the course of the year for a sum of \$5100.

Supervisor Barber requested a Resolution of Support for a speed limit reduction on the Route 9 Bridge over Ausable Chasm.

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

#160 WHEREAS, the US Route 9 Bridge, also known as the Rainbow Falls bridge, in Keeseville, is a critical infrastructure point with significant pedestrian and vehicular traffic due to its proximity to Ausable Chasm, a major tourist destination attracting over 100,000 visitors annually; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has planned bridge work for summer 2026, which includes relocating the existing pedestrian crosswalk, and current regulations prohibit marked crosswalks on roads with a speed limit of 45 MPH; and

WHEREAS, the removal of the pedestrian crosswalk without a corresponding reduction in the speed limit would significantly increase safety risks for pedestrians, including residents and tourists crossing between parking areas, scenic overlooks, and the main entrance of Ausable Chasm, particularly given the high volume of vehicular traffic, including buses and RVs; and

WHEREAS, the Rainbow Falls bridge is a historic and narrow structure with exceptionally high pedestrian activity, necessitating enhanced safety measures to protect the community and visitors; and

WHEREAS, a speed limit reduction to 35 MPH on the Rainbow Falls bridge would allow NYSDOT to implement additional safety measures, such as enhanced signage, rectangular rapid-flashing beacons (RRFBs), and curb extensions or guarding, to improve pedestrian safety; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chesterfield recognizes the importance of ensuring the safety of all individuals using this critical crossing and supports collaborative efforts with NYSDOT, elected officials, and Ausable Chasm management to address this concern;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Chesterfield hereby supports a speed limit reduction from 45 MPH to 35 MPH on the US Route 9 Bridge over Ausable Chasm to enhance pedestrian safety and facilitate the implementation safety measures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Chesterfield urges Senator Dan Stec and other relevant state officials to advocate for and facilitate this speed limit reduction in coordination with NYSDOT; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Chesterfield encourages on-site meeting with Senator Stec's team, Ausable and Chesterfield town supervisors, NYSDOT representatives, and Ausable Chasm management to review the location and discuss practical solutions; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Senator Dan Stec, NYSDOT, the Town of Ausable, and the Ausable Chasm Co. for their records and consideration.

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

#161 Resolved: That with no other business to come before this Board, this Regular Board Meeting of the Town of Chesterfield be adjourned at 7:09 PM.