

Minutes of the Town of Chesterfield Regular Board Meeting Held on Tuesday, February 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 Regular 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: John Casey
Councilman: Harrison Blaise
Town Attorney: Mark Cowen
Code Officer: Trent Gravelle

Councilman Mitchell and Superintendent of Highways Champine were excused.

Guests present:

Tamera Mrose Alan Hachigan William Lyons
Walter Chmura Romeyn Prescott John Lacy

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

#47 Resolved: To accept and waive the reading of the minutes of the Town of Chesterfield Organizational & Regular Board Meeting held on January 12, 2026.

Supervisor Barber gave an update on the Thompson Road transfer to Essex County Land Bank. The Land Bank was going to ask for a variance to the approved six homes as New York State is pushing for more locations. He met with representatives from the Land Bank and viewed this as unacceptable. Andrew Prescott had suggested giving the five lots on the backside of Commerce Park as a solution to this dilemma. Councilman Gload asked if the Essex County IDA was open to this. Councilman Casey asked if the infrastructure would be completed by the Land Bank. Supervisor Barber replied the road would be 100% funded, the sewer and water infrastructure will be in place to upgrade. Walter Chmura asked if maybe it would be more cost effective to put in individual septic systems.

Supervisor Barber requested a resolution to accept the audits of Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Judges performed by the Town Board.

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

#48 Resolved: To accept the 2025 audits of the Town of Chesterfield Tax Collector, Town Clerk and Judges performed by the entire Town Board.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board Town of Chesterfield has completed its Annual Financial Report (AFR) for 2025 and it has been submitted to New York State. He complimented Clerk to the Supervisor Ocasio for being the first one in Essex County to submit the AFR and for all her efficiency and hard work.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the Water Department is once again looking for a full-time laborer. Help Wanted ads have been submitted to the Sun News and on the Town's Facebook pages. Pay may start out at \$20 per hour.

Supervisor Barber opened the floor to Town Officials.

Town Clerk Bourgeois presented the Board with the January 2026 Clerk Report. He announced the Town has met its tax levy and was the first Town to write a check to Essex County. He gave a brief explanation of the Keeseville 250 Celebration Committee. Clinton County Historical Society would like to donate a 250 banner to be shared with the Town of Ausable.

On that note, Supervisor Barber asked town Clerk Bourgeois to read a resolution in support of 250 activities.

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

**#49 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD IN SUPPORT OF THE AMERICA 250
COMMEMORATION AND AUTHORIZING RELATED EXPENDITURES**

WHEREAS, the United States of America will commemorate its 250th anniversary on July4, 2026, marking a historic milestone in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, asserting the American colonies' freedom from British rule and laying the foundation for the principles of democracy and self-governance; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, known as the America 250 Commission (america250.org), was established by Congress in 2016 to plan and coordinate the national commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, the New York State 250th Commemoration Commission was created to lead statewide efforts to commemorate the founding of the United States and New York's pivotal role in the nation's formation and development; and

WHEREAS, Town Law authorizes the Town Board to appropriate funds for the proper observance of patriotic and historical events (Town Law 64[12], [14]), and Arts and Cultural Affairs Law 57.07 further authorizes local governments to appropriate and expend funds for historical purposes within their

jurisdiction, including the erection of markers, monuments, the preservation of historical materials, and cooperation with local historical organizations; and

WHEREAS, these statutes provide the legal authority for towns to engage in and support commemorations that are educational, patriotic, and historical in character, including public programming, exhibits, community events, and historical preservation activities connected to America 250; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chesterfield recognizes the importance of America 250 as an opportunity to reflect on our community's contributions to America's story, honor the achievements of past generations, and inspire renewed civic engagement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Chesterfield hereby expresses its support for the America 250 Commemoration and authorizes the Town Board and appropriate departments to plan, promote, and participate in programs and events consistent with the purposes of Town Law 64 and Arts and Cultural Affairs Law 57.07; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such activities may include, but are not limited to, educational programming, historical exhibits, patriotic decorations, community celebrations, and collaborations with local schools, libraries, and historical societies, provided that all expenditures serve a proper public purpose and comply with applicable fiscal and procurement requirements.

Councilman Gload gave an update on the Keeseville Youth Commission. The summer program will be at the Keeseville elementary School this year with swim lessons potentially at Port Douglas Beach. There seems to be a glut of lifeguards this year so the beach is covered. The Town will need to purchase new ropes and buoys to conform to NY State regulations.

Supervisor Barber opened the floor to public comment.

Walter Chmura asked about blighted properties to go the Essex County Land Bank. Supervisor Barber noted this is a possibility and he has spoken to Essex County about pulling parcels from the tax sale for projects. Mr. Chmura congratulated the Town on its budget and suggested the AVCS School Board could learn a few things from this Board.

William Lyons mentioned the high cost of electricity.

Alan Hachigan addressed the Board on the need for a Town Constable with possible duties of court security, ticketing for infractions against Town rules and regulations, making sure Town employees and contractors are following safety protocol etc. This potentially could be a combined position with the Town of Ausable and he will be doing a presentation with that Town tomorrow night. Supervisor Barber suggested the Town of Chesterfield wait to see the interest from the Town of Ausable.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board he, Clerk to the Supervisor Ocasio and Town Clerk Bourgeois had a virtual meeting with My Text Gov for emergency notices. It was decided this company at this time would not be beneficial to the Town of Chesterfield.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the contract for purchasing 93 Kent Street is complete and the Town would like to close everything out by end of February. The purchase price would be \$22,800.

Town Attorney Cowen informed the Board a Public Hearing is a Permissive Referendum. He will do the legwork for the Town.

Supervisor Barber requested times for the Public Hearing. He would also like to include the Land Bank looking at the backside of Commerce Park.

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

#50 Resolved: To hold a Public Hearing on the Town of Chesterfield's proposed purchase of 93 Kent Street and to hear comments and concerns on the granting of lots in Commerce Park to the Essex County Land Bank on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 5:30 PM at Town of Chesterfield Office.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the Chesterfield Water District is once again pulling water from Butternut Pond. The intake line was not centered on rocks or sitting on a platform. Divers came to put a riser in and fix the elevation of the intake. This opened a conversation on whether AES engineers, Kingsbury workers or both were at fault. The Town of Chesterfield has spent a lot of money in overtime, equipment and discomfort to the water users.

Supervisor Barber also informed the Board that while the divers were here, the Town asked them to check out the intake at Port Kent Water as a boat had hit the line in the summer due to low water levels. It was found to be OK but the divers have presented a bill to the Town of Chesterfield for \$11,000. The Port Kent Water District is in dire financial straits. The Town Board may have to look at raising rates for Port Kent water users.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the new bucket truck will only be purchased by the Towns of Chesterfield and Ausable. Peru and Willsboro will not be purchasing part. The purchase price is \$177,850 split between the two towns. Councilman Gload noted that the Town of Chesterfield gets first priority for any projects before lending out to towns who did not wish to contribute towards the purchase.

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

#51 Resolved: To accept the Supervisor's Report for January 2026, which may be found in the Town Clerk's office.

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

#52 Resolved: To accept water billing and adjustments from January 13, 2026 to February 10, 2026

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

#53 Resolved: To pay all bills, including credit card usage, received since January 12, 2026. Bills amounting to \$799,029.94 were audited and paid from the General Fund. Bills amounting to \$56,549.43 were audited and paid from the Highway Fund. Bills amounting to \$21,876.59 were audited and paid from the Town of Chesterfield's Water Department. Bills amounting to \$12,858.12 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 \$588.62 were audited and paid from the compaction Station. Bills amounting to

\$8,178.05 were audited and paid from the TCWD Project. The total of all bills received since January 12, 2026 equals \$901,353.83.

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

#54 Resolved: To accept all bank reconciliations to February 10, 2026.

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

#55 Resolved: To file all letters presented to this Board in the Town Clerk's Office.

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

#56 Resolved: to enter into Executive Session at 7:33 PM to discuss Personnel topics.

The Board re-entered Regula Session at 7:47 PM with no decisions being made.

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

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