

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Held on Tuesday, July 8, 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 Bourgeois

Councilman: David Gload

Councilman: Richard Klages

Councilman: Patrick "Bill" Mitchell

Councilman: John Casey

Town Attorney: Mark Cowen

Supt of HW: John "Jay" Champine

Code Officer: Trent Gravele

Guests Present:

Harrison Blaise Tamera Mrose Gordon Howard

Romeyn Prescott Walter Chmura John Lacy

Douglas Leiinger Emily Moosmann

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

#114 Resolved: That the reading of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 10, 2025 be dispensed with.

Supervisor Barber announced July's meeting would be Councilman Richard Klages last one as he is retiring. He congratulated Councilman Klages for many years of service to the town of Chesterfield and the entire Keeseville community and presented a plaque of congratulations and thanks.

Upon a motion by Supervisor Barber and unanimously seconded by the entire Board it was

#115 WHEREAS, Richard “Rick” Klages has served the Town of Chesterfield for 33 years and the community of Keeseville for longer with an unwavering dedication, integrity, and commitment ; and

WHEREAS, Rick Klages has exemplified exceptional leadership as a councilman for the Town of Chesterfield, demonstrating a proactive approach to addressing the needs and concerns of residents while maintaining fiscal responsibility and ethical governance; and

WHEREAS, his extensive service in the Keeseville Fire Department has contributed significantly to the safety and well-being of the community, reflecting his deep commitment to public service; and

WHEREAS, Rick Klages has been recognized for his tireless efforts, ethical conduct, and ability to represent the best interests of the Town of Chesterfield, earning the respect and gratitude of residents and colleagues alike; and

WHEREAS, his contributions have left a lasting impact on the community, fostering a spirit of unity, progress, and service that will benefit Keeseville and the Town of Chesterfield for years to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Chesterfield, on behalf of the residents of Keeseville and the Town of Chesterfield, hereby expresses its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Richard “Rick” Klages for his many years of dedicated service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution of Thanks be formally recorded in the official records of the Town of Chesterfield and that a copy be presented to Rick Klages as a token of the community’s deep appreciation for his invaluable contributions.

Supervisor Barber requested a moment of silence for John Brelia.

Upon a motion by Supervisor Barber and unanimously seconded by the entire Town Board it was

#116 WHEREAS, John David Brelia, a lifelong resident of Keeseville, NY, passed away on June 7, 2025, at the age of 86, leaving behind a legacy of service, dedication, and love for his community; and

WHEREAS, John Brelia served the Village of Keeseville for many years as a heavy equipment operator, contributing to the maintenance and improvement of the community’s infrastructure with steadfast commitment and skill; and

WHEREAS, John was a devoted member of St. John’s Parish in Keeseville, where he lived out his faith, and a life-time member of the Keeseville Elks Lodge #2072, demonstrating his deep ties to the social and civic fabric of the community; and

WHEREAS, as an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and golfing, John embraced the natural beauty of the Town of Chesterfield and shared his passion for its landscapes with family and friends; and

WHEREAS, John’s life was marked by his love for his family, including his wife, Elizabeth “Betty” Brelia, his children, Chris Beckham, David Brelia, Lisa Bashaw, and Nicole Prentiss, and his numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, all of whom carry forward his values of community and care; and

WHEREAS, his contributions to Keeseville and the Town of Chesterfield have left an enduring impact, inspiring others to serve with the same dedication and spirit:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town board of the Town of Chesterfield hereby express their deepest condolences to the family of John David Brelia for their profound loss; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Chesterfield extend their heartfelt gratitude for John's years of service, his unwavering commitment to the betterment of our community, and his legacy as devoted husband, father and neighbor.

Supervisor Barber opened the floor to public officials.

Town Clerk Bourgeois gave an update on the rabies clinic held at the Knights of Columbus. Essex County Health administered rabies shots to 98 animals. He thanked Councilman David Gload, Dog Control Officer Al Hachigan, the Knights of Columbus and Essex County Health for making the yearly clinic a success and for everything going smoothly. The Town- Wide Garage Sale is set for July 18, 19, 20 with over 30 sales signed up so far. Due to an exceptionally heavy event year, the Town Clerk will not have Saturday hours until sometime in September with the Supervisor's approval.

Councilman Gload opined that the Town is doing so many improvements downtown but all the "good stuff" is swept away by the individuals that hang around downtown harassing people. This opened a discussion on an individual making issues at the Keeseville Library. Supervisor Barber suggested solving this issue is complex but will try to get law authorities involved.

Supervisor Barber added John Hamilton reported someone rode through newly seeded areas of JC Park creating some significant ruts. He will review camera coverage to try to identify the culprits.

Supervisor Barber opened the floor to public comment.

Supervisor Barber recognized Emily Moosman from TCFE to do a presentation on the commercial tobacco use impact in Keeseville. TCFE would like to see Keeseville smoke free and she emphasized the danger of Ecigs and vapes. She passed out her business card to the Board Members.

Walter Chmura asked if with either ROOST or the NY Forward grant there could be "Welcome to Keeseville" signs. His suggestion was met with support from the Board and Supervisor Barber added he had offered this at the NY Forward walk-through.

Tamra Mrose requested the Board re-visit a kennel license for her business. Essex County did away with those a few years ago. She does rescue Border Collies and trains dogs and it is a complex chore to renew licenses throughout the year. Town Clerk Bourgeois asked about accounting this income if granted. Supervisor Barber will look into it.

Supervisor Barber presented the Board with an updated Employee Handbook. He has scheduled a meeting with Town employees to review and answer questions July 17 at 3:00 PM. Supervisor Barber requested the Board adopt the new handbook. If there are requested changes, the Board has the authority to make amendments.

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

#117 Resolved: To adopt the updated Employee Handbook for the Town of Chesterfield dated July 8, 2025.

Highway Superintendent Champine gave an update on the Salt Shed Project and the need for an electrical upgrade that needs to be done that was not covered by the grant. The Town will need to go out to bid on this as many local small contractors do not want to handle such an extensive job. He added milling will be done on Vine Street Thursday, July 10th to prepare it for paving.

Town Attorney Cowen gave an update on the Town's purchase of 93 Kent Street. The Town needs to do a public referendum which he suggested should be done same time as Election Day to save costs seeing the Town has plenty of time.

Supervisor Barber presented the Board with a letter from Front Street Fellowship Board gifting the property lot for the proposed downtown parking lot with some concerns that were satisfactorily addressed by the Board.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board he received a call from a concerned constituent about Short Term Rentals asking the Town to pass a resolution making STRs commercial properties. Supervisor Barber explained it is not that easy. He will enter into the process. Town Attorney Cowen added the State and county have not resolved this issue either and whichever entity passes the first laws on this topic will be the first to be sued in court.

Supervisor Barber presented the Board with a letter from a property owner asking for a Town Law on septic systems, specifically on Augur Lake. Town Attorney Cowen suggested new builds versus existing could be met using current zone laws but the Town should not get involved with

Supervisor Barber gave an update on the JC Park restrooms. The new waterline is complete. The restroom doors will be locked at 7:00 PM after evening games are complete. The Town is considering timed bathroom locks. The Town may have to purchase one more camera for the Park.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the Port Douglas Beach is open 7 days a week and he has been getting quite a few compliments on the facilities and the quality and professionalism of the lifeguards. One complaint was the anchors for the marker buoys. He mentioned the budget for the beach needs to be amended as cleaning supplies and safety equipment needed to be purchased. Supervisor Barber will meet with Town of Ausable Supervisor Bresett when he returns to discuss.

Supervisor Barber informed the Board the beach has been well attended with a graduation party at the pavilion over the weekend. Councilman Gload asked about the party happening at JC Park. Supervisor Barber responded anyone using town facilities for an event needs to sign a "Hold Harmless" agreement before having their event. This has been done for the JC Park event.

Supervisor Barber presented the Board with a proposed offer from NOCO on lot #9 at Commerce Park. He would like to table this at this time due to the need for a Public Hearing. There are other concerns from the Town and Essex County IDA. This will give the Town time to address concerns and make an informed decision.

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

#118 Resolved: To table any discussion and offer of purchase of lot #9 at Commerce Park pending more information forthcoming.

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

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

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

#120 Resolved: To accept water billing and adjustments for the period of June 11, 2025 through July 7, 2025.

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

#121 Resolved: To pay all bills, including credit card usage, received since June 9, 2025. Bills in the amount of \$43,575.73 were audited and paid from the General Fund. Bills in the amount of \$17,027.71 were audited and paid from the Highway Fund. Bills in the amount of \$25,312.98 were audited and paid from the TCWD Fund. Bills in the amount of \$1,149.04 were audited and paid from the PKWD. Bills in the amount of \$1,849.30 were audited and paid from Village Debt. Bills in the amount of \$2,592.01 were audited and paid from Compaction Station Fund. Bills in the amount of \$3,905.00 were audited and paid from TCWD Project. The total of all bills received since June 9, 2025 were \$95,411.77.

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

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

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

#123 Resolved: To enter into Executive Session to discuss water issues at 7:15 PM.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 7:42 PM.

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

#124 Resolved: To resolve the water issues as discussed.

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

#125 Resolved: To adopt all budget amendments for June 2025.

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

#126 Resolved: That with no other business to come before this Board, this Regular Board Meeting of the Town of Chesterfield be adjourned at 7:43 PM.