

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Chaplin, Connecticut
Thursday, September 1, 2022**

Members Present: Juan Roman III, First Selectman; Anthony Pinto, Selectman; Kenneth Fortier, Selectman

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Richard Weingart, Chairman/Board of Finance Supervisor; Susan Welshman, Administrative Assistant

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:14pm

- 2. First Audience of Citizens:** Nine residents from Miller Road and Mountain Laurel Lane attended the meeting to express concerns about a neighbor at 72 Miller Road, Brandon Stone, discharging weapons in his back yard. Cecile Hanyckyj reported that a new neighbor would like to build a gun range and wants to know if an application has been submitted. J Roman responded that no such application for a commercial gun range has been submitted and asked if they thought it would be commercial or private. Ranges in back yards would need to go through a process and since there is already a gun range, Fin Fur and Feathers, he is doubtful that another commercial gun range would be approved. Hal Brooks, 73 Miller Road reported that Mr. Stone says that he intends to build a gun range on his property. Mr. Brooks reports that a State Trooper has already spoken with him about discharging his 9mm on the property. H Brooks is concerned that many friends and family intend to use the property to shoot as well. He is very concerned about the homes behind 72 Miller Road. Bruce Trombley, 26 Mountain Laurel Lane, lives directly behind 73 Miller Road, expressed his concerns about the wildlife being in danger as well as his ability to safely sit on his back deck. He wants to know if there is a way to put a zoning order on file that could disallow this activity. Can something be done if a petition is brought in? Selectman Ken Fortier spoke, as a member of the PZC, believes they can accept a petition, but the PZC can certainly accept a regulation change application, open to public hearing, debate it, adopt regulation, goes to Town Meeting in May. Amanda Clark, 56 Miller Road, stated that there are neighbors on all side of him. Selectman Joe Pinto asked if there has been a berm erected on the property. Answer: Not sure. Brendon Rossen, 28 Mountain Laurel Lane, spoke with Mr. Stone who told him that he intends to put up a target range. Is concerned about ricocheting bullets. The Windham police have a range behind the Town Garage and have to go by many set regulations. Marty Hanyckyj, 72 Miller Road, stated that he would like to see Chaplin be a leader on gun issues in Windham County. Wants to see regulation of 500 feet for having target practice like the State hunting regulations. K Fortier stated that an application can be considered to enact a new zoning regulation, or an Ordinance can be brought to Town Meeting. Suggests starting with the zoning regulation. Jay G is Planning Zoning enforcement Agent. Suggested they work with Jay, have someone sponsor and write the application to allow public discourse. Needs to be town wide. J Roman stated that the BOS cannot stop this themselves. Until something is different law-wise. To be pro-active, have the Trooper speak to Mr. Stone about his neighbor's

concern. Always good to have a paper trail. Jim Nichols, 56 Miller Road asked about the zoning process. Can he be grandfathered into current rules. KF answered that no, there are no current rules. Michael DeSilva, 64 Miller Road, spoke of his concern about his children playing in the woods. It was agreed by all that they will begin the process by speaking to the Planning and Zoning Enforcement Officer about sponsoring a regulation application.

3. Additions to the Agenda: None

4. Approve minutes of the Board of Selectmen regular meeting on August 8, 2022 *J. Roman made a MOTION to approve the August 8, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes. J. Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.*

5. Communications and Reports

- A. Trooper Report – During the month of August the Resident Trooper participated in two school security audits for the Chaplin Elementary School and the Parish Hill High School. The Resident Trooper also attended the Chaplin Elementary School’s Staff Training Day. The Resident Trooper met with Juan Roman on 8/15/2022 and he requested focused motor vehicle enforcement along Route 6 corridor due to recent serious motor vehicle accidents along this stretch of roadway in and around Chaplin. A total of nineteen (19) traffic stops were conducted along Route 6 during the month of August.
- B. Board Members Reports: None
- C. Board of Finance Discussion: Dick Weingart reported that the deadline for the auditors to receive information has been set for September 19, 2022. He was not sure of the scheduled dates and times for the auditors to be working physically at the Town Hall. The Board of Finance’s next regular meeting will be held on September 12, 2022. D Weingart reports that the Board of Education ended the year with an \$85-\$90,000 surplus and they have requested that some portion of this money be transferred into the Unexpended Education Funds Account which is a line item in the budget.
- D. Correspondence: None
- E. Building/Infrastructure: J. Roman stated that he will address this agenda item in the agenda item under Old Business: American Rescue Plan Funds.
- F. Treasurer Report: None
- G. Department of Public Works Report: None

6. New Business

- A. Tax Collector Refunds: *J Pinto made a MOTION to approve Tax Collector Refund to Robert Cardinal in the amount of \$2708.14. K Fortier seconded the motion. All in favor, MOTION passed.*
- B. Appointments and Resignations: *J Roman read resignation letter from Board of Education member Jean Lambert with thanks for her service on the Board. J Roman made a MOTION to appoint William Rose as an Alternate Member to the Historic District Commission for a term beginning 9/1/2022 and ending 8/31/2027. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in*

favor, MOTION passed. J Roman made a motion to re-appoint Anne Lewis as the Municipal Agent for the Elderly starting 9/1/2022 and ending 8/30/2024. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.

- C. Declaration of Surplus Items from DPW/Rec Commission: Auction to be set for the first week of November for the sale of the following surplus items: 1998 Elgin Pelican S8600S (DPW); 2 bay stainless steel commercial sink (new) (Rec); 3 used 4-drawer filing cabinets (Town-currently at the Old Post Office); 2 new Continental 11R-22.5 truck tires, one never mounted, one on split rim (DPW); old 19??asphalt curb machine.
- D. Discussion and possible action on Bedlam Road Bridge: J Roman reported that he recently visited the Bedlam Road Bridge with D Stone. He Stone has expressed strong concern over the separation on the bridge. J Roman has contacted MWC Consulting who are coming out at the beginning of next week to perform an inspection and provide a report. J Roman has spoken to the State and the 50/50 grant is still in place. MWC to also provide guidance for further funding. Will speak to the Board of finance about the possibility of transferring funds from one bridge project to this one. Waiting on inspection and report.
- E. Discussion and possible action regarding Affordable Housing Plan: J Roman read out resolution to be signed (see attached) allowing the extension of the Affordable Housing Plan Grant Technical Assistance Program to June 30, 2023. *K Fortier made a MOTION to allow Juan Roman to sign the resolution. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.*
- F. Discuss moving polling place from the Fire Department to a new location: Joe Pinto stated that the Town's polling place was moved to the new firehouse after its construction. He reports that voting often disrupts firehouse business and training. He put forward that the Senior Center may be a better location. J Roman and K Fortier agreed that the physical accessibility of the Senior Center would have to be studied. The idea will be taken under consideration.

7. Old Business

- A. American Rescue Plan Funds: J. Roman reported that the Town has received a proposal obtained from the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) & Gordian for Millennium Builders, Inc. to perform the replacement of the HVAC system at the Senior Center. The Board reviewed the proposal. J Roman reported that he will be conducting a meeting with Gordian to have them explain the proposal in detail. J Pinto expressed concerns about how the proposal was written and J Roman expressed concern that they may be only proposing to install one new unit and not the needed two units. J Pinto reports that the Town's fire ponds have gotten worryingly low. J Roman to explore the use of ARPA Funds to establish more fire ponds.
- B. COVID-19: No new information to relay.
- C. All Pending and New FOI Requests: One pending FOI from Janis Farese, American Transparency, is still under discussion with Dennis O'Brian.

Carlos M. Badiola, Esq. requested a copy of Chaplin's most recently negotiated contract with Local 1303-417, Council #4; Yehuda Miller, Public Records Request for CRV; Mary Beth Derynioski, paralegal requested copy of the 2022-2025 Region 11 Teacher's Contract. All new requests have been answered and acted upon.

- D. USDA Grant – Purchase of a new firetruck: J. Pinto reported he has reached out to USDA with questions concerning what it is they may need at this step in the process and has yet to hear back. The new truck was finished quickly and shipped up from Florida. Received credit for final inspection since it will happen here. Have begun adding lights, etc. No graphics on the truck in time for the parade. J Pinto states he wishes to trade the old truck in and the only place that he can trade it in to is Brindle Mountain. Once all information and pictures of the old truck get to Brindle, the old truck must be taken out of service and allowed to sit here while Brindle tries to sell it. J Pinto has worked out with Greenwood that they will give the Fire Department \$8,000 and we were initially hoping for \$10,000. Truck is 20 + years old; the onboard generator went bad years ago. Gas tank and alternator have been replaced. We can keep it in service until the new truck arrives. J Roman asked if there is a way to find out how much we could get selling outright. J Pinto said other trucks they have sold went for a couple of grand at Town Auction. K Fortier stated that the benefit of giving it to Greenwood outweighs a possible private or auction sale. J Roman concurred. *K Fortier made a MOTION to trade the old Firetruck to Greenwood for \$8,000.* Discussion: D Weingart stated that the Town has an asset inventory which hasn't been checked in a very long time. The authority to do whatever with a piece of equipment is something that we are doing correctly in accordance with the Surplus Equipment Procedures. He stated that, in terms of the money, the stated schedule of financial activity on the new truck, therefore the Board of Finance will need a very clear current report to consider. J Pinto can provide all of the numbers. Trade in is new information to add to the schedule. K Fortier stated that if the truck is still in service then it technically is not surplus. D Weingart stated that any piece of Town owned equipment. J Pinto asked if MOTION to be changed to declare it surplus at the time of trade? J Roman said auction items going to surplus are still in inventory til sold. These items are off-line. J Roman suggests speaking to Dennis O'Brian about how to proceed.
- E. Discuss and possible action regarding the purchase of an over-the-rail mower: J Roman reported that each BOS member has two proposals in their packet outlining two different lease agreements from the same company. These proposals were secured through Sourcewell therefore it does not need to go out to bid. Proposals were reviewed and discussed. *J Roman made the MOTION that \$ 80,000 from the CIP Fund be paid as a lease down payment for a lease period of 3 years. J Pinto seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carries.*

F. Discussion of the Bicentennial Celebration: J Roman reported that things are very busy in preparation but going well. He reported that Susan Bysiewicz would be able to come to the parade only

8. Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion: Jim Randall noted that using the Senior Center gymnasium as a polling place may result in a long walk. J Roman stated that this was still very much in discussion stage and all needs will be considered.

9. Agenda Suggestions for next meeting: None.

10. Date, time, and place of next meeting (October 6, 2022, at 7:00pm, Chaplin Town Hall).

11. Adjourn: *J. Pinto made a MOTION to adjourn at 9:10pm. K. Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.*

*Respectfully submitted by,
Susan Welshman
Administrative Assistant*