

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Chaplin, Connecticut
Thursday, November 3, 2016
MINUTES – AMENDED***

MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Cunningham, First Selectman; William H. Rose IV, Selectman; Irene Schein, Selectman; ~~*Dick Weingart, Board of Finance Chairman; Jim Randall, Emergency Preparedness Director.~~

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: ~~*Dick Weingart, Board of Finance Chairman; Jim Randall, Emergency Preparedness Director; Peg McKleroy, Resident.~~

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm

2. Additions to Agenda

None

3. First Audience of Citizens

None

4. Approve minutes of: Special Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2016

Ms. Schein made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Special Meeting minutes of October 12, 2016. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. All in Favor.

5. Communications and Reports

A. Trooper Report – October 2016

The Board discussed the Trooper's statistics and it remains consistent. Also discussed was the speed enforcement trailer. Mr. Rose suggested the Town have a rotation schedule to determine where it is placed. Mr. Cunningham reported that he applied for a grant from FEMA to get an alert sign; maybe we can get another speed trailer. He will check into it.

B. Board Members Reports

Mr. Rose reported that the DPW Supervisor has been trained on the Falcon patch paver. He also reminded Dave Stone about the WINCOG grant and that the Town shares equipment for Rails to Trails and also has equipment from the I.C.E. grant in Coventry. Mr. Rose stated that Dave Stone has been a real asset to the Town.

C. Board of Finance Discussion

Mr. Weingart reported that the audit fieldwork is in place and that Valerie Garrison, Financial Manager, turned over her QuickBooks files to the auditors for last fiscal year. The auditors feel they should be wrapping up by the end of December. Once the preliminary financial reports are completed then he will be meeting with auditors, Mrs. Garrison, Mr. Cunningham and a representative from Chaplin Elementary School. Hopefully a formal report from the auditors will be at the December Board of Finance meeting. Mr. Weingart inquired about the status of the North Bear Hill Bridge project. Mr. Cunningham said that the lowest bidder was Mattern Construction and that they were waiting for final permitting which Army Corps of Engineers approved yesterday. Engineering groups WMC and/or CJM are working on the final paperwork will go to Mattern Construction in December. Mr. Weingart wants to be sure the funds are in place and according to Mr. Rose the grants will cover the project after the Town's 20% - bid

came in about \$2.1 million so about \$400,000; \$200,000 in STEAP grants so it should be about \$200,000 the Town will need to pay.

D. Correspondence

None

E. Building/Infrastructure

Mr. Cunningham met with Steve Laume to discuss the plan to remove the stage at the Senior Center. The project probably won't start until after the holidays. The Recreation barn at Garrison Park has been wired for electricity. Ms. Schein reported that the old Ross Library building has some siding coming off. The Board discussed that due to the limited space for a septic and parking that this building should be moved maybe between the Trooper office and the Library/Senior center. Mr. Rose said that a few years ago he was told that the building could be moved with no problem. Also, if the land it is currently located on is sold to an abutting neighbor then those funds can be used to move the building. It could be used as the museum and keep the current museum building where it is at. Mr. Cunningham will do a walk through with the DPW Supervisor to see what repairs are needed on the Ross building.

F. Discussion regarding Recreation Commission

Mr. Cunningham reported that Chaplin and Windham plan on signing an MOU to utilize the Town of Windham's Recreation Director. She will temporarily assist in getting programs to run more efficiently. Mr. Cunningham will talk to NECCOG regarding the need of a Recreation Director and shared services.

6. New Business

A. Tax Collector Refunds

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve a tax refund in the amount of \$1344.52 to Daimler Trust f/b/o Mercedes-Benz Financial Services USA LLC. Ms. Schein seconded the motion. All in Favor.

B. Resignations/Appointments

None

C. Discussion on "Columbus Day" name change to "Indigenous Peoples' Day".

Ms. Schein asked the Board to consider changing the holiday name from "Columbus Day" to "Indigenous Peoples' Day"; other towns and states are making this change. In 2007 there was a vote at the United Nations and the US was against it. This has since changed and the US is now in favor. She stated it would be educational to teach the young about indigenous groups and diversity in our history and respect the culture that was here before European cultures came. Ms. Schein made a motion that the Town of Chaplin change the holiday name "Columbus Day" to "Indigenous Peoples' Day". Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Rose stated he feels it is a protest of Columbus and genocide has been around before the Indians, in fact the Indians stole the land from those before them and that Columbus didn't displace the Indians. Why can't we just add Indigenous Peoples' day? Maybe not all people in Chaplin would agree and some may want to keep it "Columbus Day". The Board discussed combining the names to identify both groups. Mr. Cunningham amended the motion for the Town of Chaplin to change the holiday name from "Columbus Day" to "Indigenous People/Columbus Day". Mr. Rose seconded the motion. All in Favor.

7. Old Business**A. STEAP Grant (North Bear Hill Bridge)**

Mr. Cunningham reported that ground will be broken on 4/1/17, but can be done earlier weather permitting. It will probably take a season and a half to complete and the bridge will be usable when site work is being done.

B. Discussion regarding handicapped access at the Senior Center

Mr. Cunningham reported that an existing door at the Senior Center will be used which reduces the costs from about \$20,000 to \$8-10,000. CIP Funds will be requested for this project. Discussion regarding the ramp at the door for the Library and how ice builds up there and it would be best to use the new handicapped entrance for both areas.

C. Discussion regarding use of Community Center

Mr. Cunningham will get a quote from Action Air regarding a new HVAC system for the Community Center. The Board discussed whether it should be included in the CIP heating project for the whole building or do a separate system.

D. Status of Chaplin Museum re-location

Mr. Cunningham re-capped the discussion regarding the old Ross Library and moving that building instead of the old museum. Mrs. McKleroy told the Board that there are still broken windows in the old museum. Mr. Cunningham will send the DPW Supervisor over again to fix them.

E. Status of Dissolution Study and Add/Withdraw Grades Study

Mr. Cunningham informed the Board that the Dissolution Study Committee still has not met and that the Selectman from all three towns, Chaplin, Hampton, and Scotland reached out to the State to get a status. The Add/Withdraw Grades Committee has been meeting regularly.

F. Discuss tentative plans to celebrate Chaplin Bicentennial in 2022.

Mr. Cunningham reported no updates. It makes sense to not start a committee until 2 years before the celebration and CIP Funds will be requested.

G. Discuss All Pending and New FOI Requests

None

H. Human Resources Updates/Changes

None

I. Discussion regarding the Department of Public Works

Mr. Cunningham stated that the snow fighting equipment has been prepped and ready to go. The DPW crew has been working on small projects, cutting down brush around the DPW building and transfer station. A cable has replaced the gate between transfer station and DPW which will help when it is time to remove snow from that area. Mr. Rose said he was impressed with the new mowing contractor and that they are blowing leaves out of the cemeteries, they look good. He also asked that repair be done on the fence surrounding the cell tower. Mr. Cunningham said that a claim has been put in for the damaged flag pole at the firehouse. They need to rent a crane to even see the extent of the damage. Ms. Schein suggested using a drone, but Mr. Cunningham stated our insurance does not cover drones.

J. Discussion regarding Public Safety and Resident Trooper Program

Mr. Cunningham said that a suspicious white box truck was patrolling the neighborhood, it was reported to Trooper Black and also on the Facebook neighborhood watch page and it hasn't

been seen again. Ms. Schein asked if the cold murder case in Town was going to be reopened, Mr. Cunningham said he believes it was transferred to the State Police Cold Case unit and it will be up to them to reopen it.

K. Discussion on Energize CT Grant

Mr. Cunningham suggested that maybe this grant be used for the HVAC system at the community center.

L. Discussion regarding leasing space in the Old Post Office Building.

Mr. Cunningham said work will begin again during the winter.

M. Conservation Commission – Review status of commission and ordinance.

Mr. Cunningham reported that he talked to the Chair, Juan Sanchez, and he has two people interested in becoming members. If not, it was suggested to combine the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission with the Conservation Commission.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion.

Mr. Randall asked that a tree behind the flag pole be cut down and also can someone mow around the pole. He also asked if all groups will be celebrated, why just the indigenous ones. The Governor also requested residents to decrease water usage by 15% to help with the drought.

10. Agenda Suggestions for next meeting

Communications and Reports

Trooper Report
Board Members Reports
Board of Finance Discussion
Correspondence
Building/Infrastructure
Discussion regarding Recreation Commission

New Business

Tax Collector Refunds
Resignations/Appointments

Old Business

STEAP Grant (North Bear Hill Bridge)
Discussion regarding handicapped access at the Senior Center
Discussion regarding use of Community Center
Status of Chaplin Museum and Old Ross Library re-location
Status of Dissolution Study and Add/Withdraw Grades Study
Discuss tentative plans to celebrate Chaplin Bicentennial in 2022.
Discuss All Pending and New FOI Requests
Human Resources Updates/Changes
Discussion regarding the Department of Public Works
Discussion regarding Public Safety and Resident Trooper Program
Discussion on Energize CT Grant
Discussion regarding leasing space in the Old Post Office Building.
Conservation Commission – Review status of commission and ordinance.

11. Date, time, and place of next meeting (December 1, 2016 @ 7:00pm @ the Town Hall)

12. Adjourn

Mr. Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 8:16pm.