

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Chaplin, Connecticut
October 16, 2019
SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes**

Members Present: William H. Rose IV, Selectman; Anthony Pinto, Selectman.

Others Present: Suzanne Gluck, Administrative Assistant; Chaplin Residents

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Rose called the meeting to order at 7:00pm
2. **Discuss the Connecticut State Police Resident Trooper Program for Chaplin versus the proposal from the Willimantic Police Department to provide police services for Chaplin:**

Mr. Rose informed the audience that the main reason for the meeting was to get further input from the Chaplin residents regarding the Willimantic Police proposal and Connecticut State Police proposal for police services in Chaplin. A condensed information sheet for both proposals was handed out for review.

The Town budgeted \$203,802 for FY19-20 for the State Trooper program. Proposed costs for FY20-21, with the new reduced benefit rate from the State, will cost approximately \$187,180 which includes office costs at the Trooper Office in town. The Willimantic Police Department proposed \$195,000. This would be approximately \$7820 in savings if we were to continue to use the Connecticut State Police program.

Also discussed was the response time for each department, hours/days a week and weeks per year for police coverage. Part of the summary listed the services each department offers, i.e. patrol division, detective division, K-9, DARE program, SWAT team, fingerprinting, administrative staff, records, speed monitoring trailer, crime scene trailer.

Mr. Rose did get phone calls and emails today from residents expressing their concerns and support for the State Police Trooper program that is already in place.

3. **Audience for citizens discussion limited to agenda item.** The following were questions/comments from the audience:
 - *How are the response times established? I support the State Police Trooper program.* Mr. Rose said we used a gauge of Troop D location during off hours same with Willimantic Police Department location.
 - *The city police look for crime where the State police tend to respond to crime. Chaplin fits the State police better than city police. No need to bring Willimantic in any further. I support the State police trooper program.*

- *The Willimantic Police Department did a very professional presentation, seemed well trained as are the State trooper, but we are already using some of Willimantic services already, this may be too much. Question is do we need a Trooper program at all? Most calls will be answered by regular patrol anyway.*
- *Will there be a location for Willimantic Police to use for privacy if you do not want to go to Willimantic? Mr. Rose answered that a place will be available for the Willimantic police to use if needed, or we can continue with the office they just won't have the added cost of internet/phone in the building.*
- *Will we get the same officer from the Willimantic Police or will it always be changing? Mr. Rose stated that yes, it will be the same officer assigned with the exception of vacation/sick/training time etc. when another officer will be covering.*
- *How can the Willimantic Police enter into Chaplin when they have no jurisdiction to cross through Windham? Mr. Rose stated there is a statutory reason for them to respond. Windham is not contracted with Willimantic Police service, but Chaplin would be in contract with them so they can cross over into Chaplin.*
- *Do the residents have an opportunity to vote and decide? I support the Trooper Program. Mr. Rose stated that the Board of Selectmen will be deciding which proposal to accept. This is a contract, like many of the contracts decided by the Board and it will be a Board of Selectmen decision. Some items, i.e. ordinances, would be a Town vote.*
- *What other Towns have a trooper program? Mr. Rose read from the State Police presentation that there are 169 towns in Connecticut, 77 of which CT State Police has primary jurisdiction and 53 resident trooper towns.*
- *Would there be a civilian review board if there was an issue with a particular trooper? Mr. Rose stated not a civilian board made of citizens but there is a process to report through the police department officials.*
- *Could there be an increase in expenses with the State Police? Mr. Rose said that the Trooper program costs have gone up and down, and if it became unjustifiable, they can cancel the contract with a 30-day notice.*
- *If you cancelled the contract with the State Police what is the time frame to re-establish a contract? Mr. Rose was told that it could take up to 6 months to go into contract again by the time they make arrangements with staffing, etc.*

- *Willimantic Police Department is closer, training seems to be more focused on community and youth – I support the Willimantic Police Department.*
- *If something is not broken, why fix it? Mr. Rose stated that in business it is important to look at different options and have these important conversations with the residents. This process has strengthened communication with the State Police also.*
- *I use the patrol checks when we are out of town and it is a good service. I support the Connecticut State Trooper Program.*
- *I feel the vote should go to referendum. Maybe we need to discuss if we need the program at all, these funds should go to the Ambulance services needed in town instead.*

Mr. Rose stated that the input received today showed an overwhelming support to maintain the current Connecticut State Trooper Program.

The Board of Selectmen will be scheduling a special meeting next week to make a final decision on the two proposals.

- 4. Adjourn:** Mr. Pinto made a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 7:44pm. Mr. Rose seconded the **MOTION**. Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Suzanne Gluck, Administrative Assistant*