

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Chaplin, Connecticut
April 20, 2021
Special Meeting
MINUTES**

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Suzanne Krodel, Administrative Assistant

REMOTE: Dick Weingart, Chair/Board of Finance (REMOTE).

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:17pm

2. **Discussion regarding FY2021-2022 Budget:** Mr. Rose reported that he and Mr. Pinto went to the Board of Finance meeting on Monday to discuss the CIP budget and purchase of a new fire truck. Due to the loss of town revenue from the depreciation of the Algonquin facility and the high tuition costs for Parish Hill students, cuts need to be made. The consensus was not to raise the mill rate due to the COVID pandemic. Mr. Rose suggested cutting funds in CIP for road maintenance reduce to \$150,000 for one year only; funds for England Bridge will not be needed right away and can be reduced to \$100,000 a year for the next few years. There is also a grant for \$91,000 that he is in the process of securing for the firetruck. Mr. Pinto stated that a used truck is an option if it is the right fit for the town. The Board of Finance also suggested cuts in utility projections, but Mr. Rose stated this is not a good idea due to raising fuel costs are unpredictable right now. A mill increase this year is not a good idea, but most likely for next year.

Mr. Weingart asked if some funds can be allocated for after 7/1/2022 for the fire truck instead of all in FY2021-2022. Mr. Rose stated that in order to get the grant it has to be purchased the upcoming fiscal year which ends 6/30/2022. There was some discussion in regard to exactly how much needed to be cut from the CIP plan and to clarify Mr. Weingart will meet with Mr. Rose on Thursday to discuss in further detail.

3. **Discussion and possible action regarding date, time, and location for the Annual Town meeting and referendum.** Mr. Rose informed the board that he had discussed the new executive orders with Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien and Rich Roberts who wrote many executive orders, to determine what type of Annual town meeting must be held and what new dates to approve. They are required to have voting on Regional District 11 members at the town meeting so this would be difficult to do remotely. It was determined that they can hold an in person meeting as long as social distancing is followed. He also suggested they keep the more controversial items for the fall town meeting so there is no issue of potentially turning people away at the May meeting due to COVID restrictions.

Mr. Fortier made a **MOTION** to approve new dates for the budget public hearing on 5/10/21, annual town meeting on 5/24/21, and then a referendum to vote on 6/1/21. Mr. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. No discussion. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.

4. Discussion regarding the proposed ordinances for Town Meeting:

Mr. Rose reiterated that the agenda items concerning sale of town property should wait until the fall meeting so maximum attendance is allowed. He discussed the following ordinances should be on the legal notice for the 5/24/21 meeting to be voted on at referendum on 6/1/21.

- a. An Ordinance merging the Wetlands Commission and Conservation Commission effective July 1, 2021, and providing for the appointment of members to the merged Commission by the Chief Executive Officer of the Town, currently the First Selectman; and
- b. An Ordinance changing the Method of Selection of Members of the Recreation Commission from Election by the Town Meeting to Appointment by the Board of Selectmen, effective July 1, 2021.

Due to the non-existing Conservation Commission, it was suggested that this commission be combined with the Inland Wetlands Commission and also make them appointed as suggested by the Chair of IWWC, Scott Matthies. The same for Recreation Commission to have elections at the Town meeting is not the norm and appointments make more sense. The higher-level Boards/Commissions like Planning & Zoning, Board of Selectmen should be elected.

5. Discuss and possible action regarding the Memorandum of Understanding for the Programmable Electronic Sign STEAP Grant:

Mr. Rose stated that the MOU authorizes the First Selectman to sign contracts for the town. Mr. Rose made a **MOTION** to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with the State of CT for programmable electronic sign STEAP grant. Mr. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. No discussion. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.

6. Approve minutes of the Board of Selectmen regular meeting on April 1, 2021. Mr. Pinto made a **MOTION** to approve the April 1, 2021 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes. Mr. Fortier seconded the **MOTION**. No discussion. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.

7. Tax Collector Refunds: Mr. Pinto made a **MOTION** to approve a tax refund to Darcy Rose for \$40.39. Mr. Fortier seconded the **MOTION**. No discussion. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.

- 8. Second audience of citizens:** Mr. Weingart stated that the Inland & Wetlands Commission is a higher-level commission because of the land use decisions they make and maybe they should stay elected. Mr. Rose stated they don't change policies like the P&Z do. Mr. Weingart asked if Mr. Rose discussed this with the Democratic Town Committee and Republican Town Committee. He did not but will follow through with them. This will still go to vote at the referendum.
- 9. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Suzanne Krodel
Administrative Assistant*