

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Chaplin, Connecticut  
April 27, 2021  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** William H. Rose IV, First Selectman; Kenneth Fortier, Selectman; Anthony Pinto, Selectman (arrived remotely at 5:13pm).

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Suzanne Krodel, Administrative Assistant

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

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Rose called the meeting to order at 5:04pm
2. **Opening of the FY2021-2022 mowing bids.** Bids were opened and reviewed:

COMPANY	BID AMOUNT
Sharper Edge, LLC	Town Hall/Garrison Park: \$9,000
George Brown	Optional Bid/Baseball Diamonds: \$2000
134 Nathan Hale Drive, Coventry CT 06238	Cemeteries: N/A

COMPANY	BID AMOUNT
D&D Property Maintenance	Town Hall/Garrison Park: \$11,900
Dylan Strong	Optional Bid/Baseball Diamonds: \$2,500
90 S Bedlam Road, Chaplin CT 06235	Cemeteries: \$9,600

References and equipment lists will be verified before the bids are awarded.

3. **Resignations and Appointments:** Mr. Rose read a letter of resignation from Ann Lewis, Democratic Registrar of Voters, with an effective date of 4/26/21.
4. **Discussion regarding FY2021-2022 Budget:** Mr. Rose reviewed the draft budget. He had a question regarding the timing for advertising the call. The Board of Selectmen will need to have a meeting on 5/11 to accept the legal notice and asked if there will be a final number for the budget after the public hearing on 5/10. Mr. Weingart said they should have the final number for vote. They discussed that the town meeting is on 5/24 and there should be enough time to finalize the numbers and publish the ad. Mr. Weingart will let us know if we need to push out the town meeting.

Mr. Pinto joined the meeting remotely at 5:13pm.

Mr. Rose stated that the Board of Finance is asking for cuts to general government in excess of \$60,000 when the schools are not cutting as much. He reviewed the following cuts:

- General Government - 90% of these expenses are contractual and they can't cut these line items.
- Board of Selectmen - \$1500 cut out of clerical which will be paying for the Bicentennial Committee clerk.
- Building/Grounds/Maintenance – We cannot keep buildings up to date with these cuts and also some items are contractual. The Board just opened the mowing bids which will be contracted. Also, the IT support is contracted and can't change. The utilities may be the only place where we can cut money but that would be foolish because utility prices will be going up, not down. For employee benefits there is extra money in annuity and insurance because you do not know if employees will take the benefits during the course of the year. Other benefits, i.e., salaries, social security, etc. was flatlined until these are finalized.
- Police – we do not have a new contract yet so it was flatlined, the rest is utilities for the trooper which those are required by contract, how can this be cut?
- Public works – we already cut \$100,000 and put road repair on hold this coming year, and the Board of Finance wants another \$7500, we need some funds to patch roads as needed.
- Sanitation – this is contracted according to number of households.

These cuts need to be consulted with the departments and the Board of Selectmen will be at the public hearing to discuss it.

Mr. Weingart stated that they compared budgeted numbers to actual expenditures for the last 7-8 years and these reductions are within the amount that existed at the end of each year between budgeted and actual expenses. He asked for Mr. Rose to put these comments in writing to him. He stated that there is a reduction from the State appropriations committee of about \$50,000. The trooper budget was over expensed for a few years when looking at the actuals and regarding the employee benefits it has been over budgeted in the past and this excess money was transferred out to cover over extended line items in other budgets.

Mr. Fortier stated that it seems haphazard that the school has small cuts, and the town budget is being cut more and he thinks it should be balanced across all areas. Mr. Weingart stated that this is a fair comment but the BOF has a contingency built into the town budget of \$25,000 to make up for any short falls. The Board of Education doesn't have that provision in their budget and the Board of Finance has more authority to appropriate up to \$25,000 and more flexibility in the town budget.

Mr. Pinto commented that he didn't see the proposed budget yet regarding the \$5000 cut for the volunteer fire department, but he will take a look at it. They submitted a lower budget this year. Also, he is aware of the Capital Improvement Plan changes (CIP) for hoses and gear which was discussed at the last BOF meeting and that is fine.

5. **Second audience of citizens:** None
6. **Adjourn:** Mr. Fortier made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 5:35pm. Mr. Rose seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Suzanne Krodel, Administrative Assistant*