

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING REMOTE/TOWN HALL  
Chaplin, Connecticut  
Thursday, June 3, 2021  
MINUTES**

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Dick Weingart, Chairman/Board of Finance; Jim Randall, Emergency Management Director.

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Rose called the meeting to order at 7:04pm
2. **First Audience of Citizens:** Mr. Randall asked about when the Department of Public Works will burn the brush pile. Mr. Rose stated that the fire marshal, Bud Meyers, gave him a number to contact DEEP. He also needs to check with Dave Stone to see the status about taking care of the bigger items first. Mr. Randall also stated that the road signs at the bottom of S. Bear Hill Road need straightening out.

Mr. Weingart informed the board that the Planning & Zoning Commission did an 8-24 review for Tutko Road, and they recommended that the sale of the road moves forward but that the abutting landowners be given a right of way on the portion of their property along the road for easy access. The Weingarts will request an easement be granted for a portion of the road that abuts their property either as part of sale or before sale.

Mr. Weingart also asked if meetings are we now required to meet in person instead of remotely. Mr. Rose stated that there is talk about it being optional but nothing official has come through yet. It isn't mandatory to have meetings in person. Mr. Weingart likes the remote option with the ability of sharing electronic documents and maybe they will consider notepads for the Board of Finance members.

3. **Additions to the Agenda:** None
4. **Approve minutes of the Board of Selectmen regular meeting on May 6, 2021 and special meeting minutes on May 25, 2021.** Mr. Pinto made a **MOTION** to approve the May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, meeting minutes. Mr. Rose seconded the **MOTION**. Discussion: Mr. Rose recommended that on the 5/6/21 minutes, page 3 be changed from "The Board reviewed the DRAFT POCD" to "The Board received the DRAFT POCD and needs to review". All in favor with the suggested changes. **MOTION** passed.
5. **Communications and Reports**
  - A. **Trooper Report:** The statistics show that things are running normal. Trooper Tucker said he enjoyed the event to meet the resident trooper and getting to know the residents. Last month there was one incident involving a juvenile, not criminal and the incident closed. Another call was a lost firearm on private property, no criminal aspect. He will be involved in three upcoming events - road race at Chaplin Elementary School, talking to seniors about scams, and the Parish Hill graduation ceremony. Mr. Pinto stated that he did a nice job on the report.

- B. Board Members Reports:** Mr. Pinto discussed the DOT traffic report. Included in the report was a list of fatalities in the past 5-years, major accidents w/injury and their recommendations for the roads. The roads discussed were Lynch Road to Chappell Street, Route 6 and Route 198, the front of the post office and Zlotnicks gas station.
  - C. Board of Finance Discussion:** Mr. Weingart stated that the approved budget by the Board of Finance has been posted, and it was recommended to keep the same mill rate of 32.5. The budget was modified by the Board of Finance with recommended reductions. He will suggest to the BOF to set the mill rate at the 6/14 board meeting contingent on the budget passing the next day so the tax collector can send bills to the printers. This meeting they will also need to appoint auditors for current fiscal year. Also, the Scotland First Selectman, Gary Greenberg, notified Mr. Rose that the RD11 region has been handling surplus funds for the past 10 years in a manner that doesn't comply with State law. The statute says that operating surplus should be returned to towns in the next fiscal year, and this wasn't done. There was a meeting with the town representatives and RD11 Board of Education and they acknowledge they had to comply with state law, surplus approx. \$425,000. A letter from all three towns was sent to the Superintendent and Chaplin is owed about \$159,000. For Chaplin Elementary School a new business manager is coming in mid-June. She is a CPA with a lot of QuickBooks experience. There is a lot of state reporting to be done for the school.
  - D. Correspondence:** None.
  - E. Building/Infrastructure:** Mr. Rose reported that there is a moisture problem in the basement of the trooper's office. It needs ventilation so a plastic barrier was put in, covered with stone and ventilation was installed to dry it out. The Department of Public Works crews are still working on drainage projects throughout the town.
  - F. Chaplin Elementary School and Regional District #11 Quarterly Budget Report:** The report is not due until the end of the month, and we should have for the July meeting.
- 6. New Business**
- A. Tax Collector Refunds:** Mr. Fortier made a **MOTION** to approve a tax refund to Ryan O'Hara for \$49.07. Mr. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.
  - B. Resignations/Appointments:** None
  - C. Possible action regarding a resolution in support of "Home Rule" in Municipal Zoning Decision Making.** At the last meeting, the Board discussed a letter received from the town of Killingly which the town council approved a resolution in support of "home rule" in municipal zoning decision making and agreed to draft one for Chaplin (see attached). Mr. Pinto made a **MOTION** to approve and support the resolution in support of "Home Rule" in Municipal Zoning Decision Making for Chaplin. Mr. Fortier seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.

7. **Old Business**

- A. Discussion regarding the Annual Town meeting.** Mr. Rose reported that the town meeting is scheduled for 6/7/21 and he sent a Google groups email out explaining the items on the agendas.
- B. Discussion regarding the sale of Tutko Road:** See above. Mr. Rose will talk to Town Attorney, Dennis O'Brien about the request from Mr. Weingart.
- C. Discussion regarding the Chaplin Museum:** Mr. Rose talked to Paul Peifer, Chairman of the Historic District Commission, to set up a meeting sometime before the fall so they can present the move of the museum to the residents at the fall town meeting.
- D. Discussion regarding COVID-19:** Town buildings are now open to the public following the state policy if you are vaccinated no need to wear a mask. Mr. Pinto stated that QV dispatch is no longer reporting COVID calls to the fire department.
- E. Discussion regarding undeclaring the State of Emergency for the Town of Chaplin:** Tabled. The State has not undeclared the State of Emergency.
- F. Discussion regarding England Road Bridge Project:** Mr. Rose reported that he received correspondence from the consulting engineering firm with an update on the bridge. They requested DOT surveyors to extend survey limits (Mr. Rose read the report to the board). The footprint will be enlarged due to chokepoint of water flow, and it backs up.
- G. Discussion regarding Bedlam Road Bridge Project:** Mr. Rose reported that funds from the local bridge program was awarded yesterday. This is a 50/50 grant award up to \$943,000. The engineering firm was contacted about the award and said the project will be about \$1.4 million and the town will need approx. \$700,000+. There is still the opportunity for a STEAP grant next year to help with the costs. This project will be a few years in process. Mr. Pinto made a **MOTION** to accept the local bridge grant of \$943,950 and to draft a letter to the Board of Finance for funds to start the project. Mr. Fortier seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.
- H. Discuss tentative plans to celebrate Chaplin Bicentennial in 2022:** Mr. Weingart reported that the committee put together a calendar and is working on fund raising. Mr. Rose stated that Rusty Lanzit created a book featuring historic Chaplin homes and it was nicely done. There are pictures of the homes with a description and history. This is a nice piece to offer for the bicentennial to sell. Mr. Lanzit said it costs about \$2 each to produce and maybe sell for \$5 each for the fund raiser. Also, we have about 800 copies of the Chaplin map that is currently hanging in the lobby at Town Hall which can be matted and sold for the fundraiser. Mr. Rose talked to the Finance Manager, Val Garrison, about setting up a restricted account for these fund raisers.
- I. Discuss the status of the drone purchased by the Emergency Management Director:** Mr. Randall is working on permits for the drone and talked to Colchester to

get information on the process. Mr. Rose suggested he reach out to the Assistant Emergency Management Director, Will Hooper, for help with permitting. He also stated that permitting must be done before any pilot is assigned or trained on the drone.

- J. Discuss All Pending and New FOI Requests:** None
  - K. Discussion regarding the Department of Public Works:** They are moving new furniture into the land use office. Also discussed was setup of the new generator at the firehouse and how close the intake is to the generator. They will run the new one and see if they have issues. Mr. Pinto said at the next FD meeting they will approve the concrete pad. Mr. Rose is thrilled with the current DPW crew and the work they do.
  - L. Discussion regarding shared and contracted services:** No changes
  - M. Human Resources:** No changes
  - N. Discuss and possible action regarding the Affordable Housing Plan Grant:** Mr. Rose reported that a partial committee has been formed and he will schedule a meeting for mid-June. We still have no Board of Education or Historic District Commission members yet.
  - O. STEAP Grant – Electronic Programmable Sign:** Paperwork has been submitted and we are waiting on the State. Mr. Pinto suggested once the sign is in have a shut off time due to the location of the residents houses directly across the street.
  - P. USDA Grant – Purchase of a new firetruck.** Paperwork has been submitted, waiting on USDA.
  - Q. Discuss cleaning quotes for Benjamin and Mary Chaplin’s headstones.** Mr. Lanzit got a quote last year. We have about \$2000 left in the budget for stone repair. This quote is over \$4000 for both. There are numerous companies, we should get 3 quotes.
  - R. Discussion regarding the preparation for listing the William Ross Library for sale:** Mr. Rose reported that the A-2 survey and maps are done, layout of the well, and EHHD approval. A comp report from Assessor, Chandler Rose, estimated it to be worth about \$90,000. It is hard to find comps for this unique building - churches are some. We can list at \$90,000 and maybe get more. This will be discussed at the town meeting. The building is deteriorating and there is no money in the budget to repair it.
- 8. Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion.** Mr. Weingart asked what past practice has been when purchasing a firetruck. How do we ensure it comes in under budget? Mr. Pinto stated that there is a truck committee and they put together a spec sheet at the last meeting. They assigned six individuals to contact manufacturer to get a quote of items for next meeting. Mr. Rose suggested that the Board of Selectmen review the quotes and then make a motion to move forward with the purchase.

**9. Agenda Suggestions for next meeting:**Communications and Reports

Trooper Report  
Board Members Reports  
Board of Finance Discussion  
Correspondence  
Building/Infrastructure  
Chaplin Elementary School and Regional District #11 Quarterly Budget Report

New Business

Tax Collector Refunds  
Resignations/Appointments

Old Business

Discussion regarding the sale of Tutko Road  
Discussion regarding the Chaplin Museum  
Discussion regarding COVID-19  
Discussion regarding undeclaring the State of Emergency for the Town of Chaplin  
Discussion regarding England Road Bridge Project  
Discussion regarding Bedlam Road Bridge Project  
Discuss tentative plans to celebrate Chaplin Bicentennial in 2022.  
Discuss the status of the drone purchased by the Emergency Management Director  
Discuss All Pending and New FOI Requests  
Discussion regarding the Department of Public Works  
Discussion regarding shared and contracted services  
Human Resources  
Discuss and possible action regarding the Affordable Housing Plan Grant  
STEAP Grant – Electronic Programmable Sign  
USDA Grant – Purchase of a new firetruck  
Discuss cleaning quotes for Benjamin and Mary Chaplin’s headstones.  
Discussion regarding the preparation for listing the William Ross Library for sale.

**10. Date, time, and place of next meeting (July 1, 2021, at 7:00pm, Chaplin Town Hall and Remote via GoToMeeting).**

**11. Human Resources Matter: CONFIDENTIAL, and subject to be discussed in Executive Session per General Statutes section 1-200(6)(A), upon motion and vote of the Board of Selectmen.** Per the advice of the Town attorney, Dennis O’Brien, we are not doing the executive session tonight.

**12. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Suzanne Krodel  
Administrative Assistant*

## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF "HOME RULE" IN MUNICIPAL ZONING DECISION MAKING**

***Approved by the Chaplin Board of Selectmen on June 3, 2021.***

Whereas, Connecticut's town and cities successfully use local zoning and planning processes to balance private property rights, the community's interests, demands on infrastructure, housing needs, and economic growth; and

Whereas, local control and decision making empowers the residents and taxpayers of each town and city to carefully tailor zoning policies that reflect its unique geography, economy, and housing market; and

Whereas, localized decision making ensures the greatest level of accountability while allowing affected community members the greatest level of input and the platform, through the public hearing, to provide specific, relevant information on potential impacts that only they would have knowledge of; and

Whereas, local control and local input enable neighbors and the local community to provide beneficial suggestions, identify errors, and maximize community buy-in on zoning proposals; and

Whereas, proposals have been introduced in General Assembly to strip local planning and zoning processes from towns and cities, and

Whereas, proposals have been introduced in the General Assembly to allow outside Housing Authorities within 15 miles radius to develop affordable housing projects within our town; and

Whereas, BY RIGHT multi-family development can lead to exponential market value over building and can cause adverse impacts to town infrastructures; and

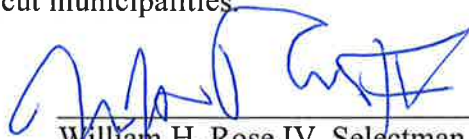
Whereas, BY RIGHT development gives outsized rights to builders over all other property owners and prevents local Planning and Zoning Commissions from identifying the potential impacts of their projects and imposing conditions upon a developer to address those direct impacts; and


Whereas, eliminating public hearings and community input on zoning matters would have unintended consequences such as increased infrastructure costs, increased local property taxes, and reduced home and business values which will be borne by the town residents; and

Whereas, each town and city already have the choice to modify or abolish its zoning ordinances if the elected town or city government decides it best serves the community's interests; and

NOW BE IT RESOLVED the Town of Chaplin opposes any State Mandated one size fits all Zoning Legislation and the ability of any outside housing authority to have jurisdiction over our towns Affordable Housing plan and any similar legislation that would further overrule, remove or diminish local control and decision making related to planning and zoning or affordable housing from the Town of Chaplin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to all State Representatives and State Senators representing this town, to the Governor, all members of the State Legislature's Planning and Development, Finance, Transportation and Housing Committees, and to all legislators sponsoring bills that remove local control of planning and zoning and affordable housing and all Connecticut municipalities.

  
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William H. Rose IV, Selectman

  
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Anthony Pinto, Selectman

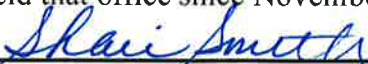
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth Fortier, Selectman

**CHAPLIN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Dated at Chaplin, Connecticut,

this 3 day of June 2021

Attest: I, Shari Smith, Town Clerk of the Town of Chaplin, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Chaplin Board of Selectmen at its duly called and held meeting on June 3, 2021, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked and is at present in full force and effect. I further certify that William H. Rose IV now holds the office of First Selectmen and that he has held that office since November 6, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shari Smith, Town Clerk

6/9/2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

