

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Chaplin, Connecticut
Thursday, July 1, 2021
MINUTES**

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Suzanne Krodel, Administrative Assistant

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm
2. **First Audience of Citizens:** None
3. **Additions to the Agenda:** Agenda item "6(F) Chaplin Street Flags" was added.
4. **Approve minutes of the Board of Selectmen regular meeting on June 3, 2021, and special meeting minutes on June 15, 2021.** K. Fortier made a **MOTION** to approve the 6/3/21 regular meeting minutes and 6/15/21 special meeting minutes. J. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. No discussion. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.
5. **Communications and Reports**
 - A. **Trooper Report:** No report
 - B. **Board Members Reports:** B. Rose reported on State bill SB. 1201 - An Act Concerning Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use Cannabis. As of today, recreation cannabis is now legal. There is some local control on sales and use. We must hold a referendum to allow cannabis sales at least 60 days before an election. There can be regulations regarding smoking in the parks, on municipal property and at restaurants. It also specifies smoked or vaped cannabis and other types of consumption. We can set fines for businesses if there are any violations. Also, municipalities can tax in addition to the state taxes.

At a previous Board meeting the Home Rule resolution regarding planning & zoning regulation oversight was approved and B. Rose shared it with other towns outside the NECCOG area. He received good feedback from a few towns that wanted to pass the resolution too.

J. Pinto reported that the new fire truck purchasing committee should have a recommendation by September to the Board of Selectmen for approval. Hopefully we will have more information on the USDA Grant, to date we have not received any updates on the status.
 - C. **Board of Finance Discussion:** Dick Weingart, Board of Finance Chairman, was not in attendance but submitted a report to the Board.
 - D. **Correspondence:** None

- E. Building/Infrastructure:** B. Rose reported an issue with mowing contracts that went out to bid. One contract was for the cemeteries and the other for Garrison Park. The town crew handles the other miscellaneous areas to mow. We received an insurance certificate from the cemetery contractor, which was insufficient according to our insurance company, CIRMA. It was sent back to the contractor with recommended coverage and the contractor declined to increase their coverage to their vehicles that would be on town property and retracted the bid. We do not have any other bids for the cemeteries. B. Rose talked to the contractor doing the park, Sharper Edge, and asked if he would be interested in doing the cemeteries and the miscellaneous areas which include the senior center/library, museum, fire department and memorial green. B. Rose feels that the DPW crew that are CDL drivers and equipment operators should be spending their time running equipment and not mowing. Sharper Edge came back with a \$20,000 quote which would be an additional \$10,000 from the original bid from the other contractor, but it includes all the other areas. Because this is an emergency situation, he decided to have the contract revised and signed by Sharper Edge. The problem is we are not getting bidders on the cemetery because of the job, if it includes these other areas, it will entice more bidders. We used to do it this way and next year he recommends it goes out to bid with this new contract. The Board agreed.
- F. Chaplin Elementary School and Regional District #11 Quarterly Budget Report:** The Board reviewed the report. Discussion included that balance left in both CES and RD11 and that the math department and professional development are both over budget.
- 6. New Business**
- A. Tax Collector Refunds:** None
- B. Resignations/Appointments:** K. Fortier made a **MOTION** to appoint David Stone, Amelia Nelson, Monica Arbo, Joshua Woodward, and Shannon Hammond, for a term of 7/1/2021 to 6/30/2023 effective 7/4/2021 until the terms end. J. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed. K. Fortier made a **MOTION** to appoint Chris Blair, Matthew Foster, Joshua Walmsley, Clayton Coogan, and Penny Boomer for a term of 7/1/2021 to 6/30/2022 effective 7/4/2021 until the terms end. J. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.
- C. Discussion and possible action regarding the Payroll Wage Sheet for FY 2021-2022.** B. Rose stated that the employee pay raises were approved at a previous meeting, so they need to approve the wage sheet which breaks down each position's salary. J. Pinto made a **MOTION** to approve the Payroll Wage Sheet for FY 2021-2022. K. Fortier seconded the **MOTION**. No discussion. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.

- D. Discuss and possible action regarding the agreement between the Town of Chaplin and Local 1303-417, Council #4, AFSCME, AFLCIO for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023 (Department of Public Works Union Contract).** J. Pinto made a **MOTION** to accept the agreement between the Town of Chaplin and Local 1303-417, Council #4, AFSCME, AFLCIO for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023. K. Fortier seconded the **MOTION**. Discussion: B. Rose explained the issue with the vacation accruals and that the problem was not just extra vacation for experience was given when staff was hired, the previous Selectmen called it “years of service” and this would be an issue with other benefits like retirement. Any new employees coming in will not be granted “years of service” but the Board can allow extra vacation time for experience. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.
- E. Discussion regarding intersection at North Bear Hill Road and Route 198:** B. Rose reported that surveying is done. The NECCOG engineer did a drawing which CONNDOT reviewed and made some changes. DOT accepted and the permit process is in place. The engineer gave us an estimate of \$100,000 for the project. We have about \$143,000 which will cover the contractor for the intersection and repairs by DPW. We will put out for bid in the Spring.
- F. Chaplin Street Flags:** J. Pinto asked if flags can be hung on the poles. B. Rose stated that we need to get permission from the company that owns the poles and fill out an application then the DPW staff can hang them. J. Pinto will get a count on how many poles they will hang flags on. He also mentioned that a marathon will be coming through Chaplin on the airline trail on 8/8. B. Rose stated that the selectman’s office is usually notified for permitting.
- 7. Old Business**
- A. Discussion regarding the sale of Tutko Road:** Tabled until the next Town meeting.
- B. Discussion regarding the Chaplin Museum:** B. Rose would like to recruit an ad hoc museum committee to help with the preparations to present at a town meeting.
- C. Discussion regarding COVID-19:** No new updates, numbers are holding steady.
- D. Discussion regarding undeclaring the State of Emergency for the Town of Chaplin:** The State has not undeclared state of emergency – tabled.
- E. Discussion regarding England Road Bridge Project:** B. Rose reported they are working on further easement now because they are going to widen. We are in the process of continuing with the design.
- F. Discussion regarding Bedlam Road Bridge Project:** B. Rose reported nothing happening at this time but hoping for future STEAP grant funding.

- G. Discuss tentative plans to celebrate Chaplin Bicentennial in 2022:** The Ad Hoc Bicentennial Committee is still working on the plans for the celebration.
- H. Discuss the status of the drone purchased by the Emergency Management Director:** B. Rose stated that Jim Randall is planning the training for the operators, but he was told that the drone cannot fly until all permitting, and licensing is in place.
- I. Discuss All Pending and New FOI Requests:** None
- J. Discussion regarding the Department of Public Works:** J. Pinto reported that the DPW crew helped put in the concrete pad at the firehouse.
- K. Discussion regarding shared and contracted services:** No updates.
- L. Human Resources:** No changes.
- M. Discuss and possible action regarding the Affordable Housing Plan Grant:** B. Rose reported that he is having a hard time forming a full committee. He spoke to NECCOG and was told they can work with the volunteers he gets.
- N. STEAP Grant – Electronic Programmable Sign:** B. Rose received notification that we can move ahead with the project. He is meeting with one sign contractor next Friday and will need to get other quotes. By keeping the project within 32' it is ok with zoning. He will have more details once we get the final design.
- O. USDA Grant – Purchase of a new firetruck:** See earlier discussion.
- P. Discussion regarding cleaning quotes for Benjamin and Mary Chaplin's headstones.** B. Rose received a second quote and was informed that by cleaning these stones it will take years off of the marble and it easily crumbles. Instead, he would like to put the money towards repairs to other stones that had been damaged. The Board agreed.
- Q. Discussion regarding the preparation for listing the William Ross Library for sale:** B. Rose reported that we have an offer already from a Chaplin resident. He will contact the Chronicle about the upcoming sale with hopes to get publicity and see if we get more offers. Maybe we can get close to the \$90,000 without the fees of a realtor. The driveway plan went to a public hearing with the Historic District Commission and passed.
- R. Discussion regarding the new road at South Chaplin Cemetery/Route 198:** B. Rose stated that surveying and engineering is in process and DOT looked at it.

8. **Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion.** None

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 - none

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

Discussion regarding cleaning quotes for Benjamin and Mary Chaplin's headstones.

Discussion regarding intersection at North Bear Hill Road and Route 198.

Chaplin Street Flags

Discussion regarding the preparation for listing the William Ross Library for sale.

10. **Date, time, and place of next meeting** (August 5, 2021, at 7:00pm, Chaplin Town Hall).

11. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm

*Respectfully submitted by,
Suzanne Krodel
Administrative Assistant*