

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
Chaplin, Connecticut  
Thursday, December 2, 2021**

**Members Present:** Juan Roman III, First Selectman; Anthony Pinto, Selectman; Kenneth Fortier, Selectman

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Richard Weingart, Chairman/Board of Finance; Suzanne Krodell, Administrative Assistant; Jim Randall, EMD; Leslie Ricklin, Chair/Ad HOC Bicentennial Committee

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm
  
2. **First Audience of Citizens:** L. Ricklin stated that the Ad HOC Bicentennial Committee would like Ann Lewis appointed to the committee; she started a Facebook page for the Bicentennial celebration. They also created a flyer highlighting all the bicentennial events which will be in with the next set of tax bills going out to the residents. She reached out to Parish Hill to see if they can get students to volunteer videotaping talks, the first one is in January a former Parish Hill High School student will be doing a talk on Benjamin Chaplin's will. Warren Church wants to do a talk to discuss how Chaplin roads got their names. Bill Rose and Joe Pinto are working on a parade and J. Pinto has some organizations he is ready to reach out to i.e., bagpipe bands, Minutemen of Massachusetts and more.

J. Randall thanked J. Roman for allowing use of the firehouse hall for his drone classes.

D. Weingart saw an article in the Chronicle from former student, Bill Powers, and he referenced the Bicentennial Celebration. L. Ricklin stated that they had met with Traci Hastings of the Chronicle, and she will be running an article too.

J. Pinto stated that next week work starts for the electronic sign at the firehouse.

3. **Additions to the Agenda:** None
  
4. **Approve minutes of the Board of Selectmen regular meeting on November 4, 2021.** J. Roman reviewed corrections to the minutes. J. Pinto made a **MOTION** to approve the 11/4/21 regular meeting minutes as amended. K. Fortier seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.
  
5. **Communications and Reports**
  - A. Trooper Report: The Board reviewed the report and noted more calls were handled in the month of November.
  - B. Board Members Reports: J. Pinto stated they had the tree lighting ceremony at the firehouse.
  - C. Board of Finance Discussion: D. Weingart stated that the treasurer is uploading information to the new OPM portal. In the next few days, he should be receiving the draft financials and will then contact the auditor. An extension request will be filed because they will not be done by the end of the month.

The presentation of the audit will take place at the January BOF meeting. The first CIP meeting will be on 12/15, the school submitted their requests. At the 12/13 BOF meeting this month they will be electing officers, approving budget letter, and he plans to run the meeting via projector this time to see if they can eliminate budget books.

- D. Correspondence: J. Roman reported that Victor Boomer, Chairman of the Library Board, that due to concerns with quorums they are requesting alternate members be added to the Board and he also questioned if the Library Board should be called Library Board of Trustees or Library Board of Directors. According to public act P.A. 07-227 it states the Library Board be called Library Board of Trustees. Attorney Dennis O'Brien recommends a new ordinance to be passed at the next Town meeting changing the name to Library Board of Trustees and Librarian to Library Director and change the board members to include alternates.
- E. Building/Infrastructure: To be discussed later.
- F. Chaplin Elementary School and Regional District #11 Quarterly Budget Report: No report due

## 6. New Business

- A. Tax Collector Refunds: K. Fortier made a **MOTION** to approve a tax refund to Ally Financial for \$110.17. J. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.
- B. Resignations/Appointments: J. Roman made a **MOTION** to appoint Ann Lewis to the Ad Hoc Bicentennial Committee effective 12/2/21 with a term of 1/7/2020 through 12/31/2022. J. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed. J. Roman read resignation from Brendan Kane as an alternate member of Zoning Board of Appeals effective 11/22/21. ZBA has the authority to appoint within 30 days, so they appointed him as a regular member and Therese Smith as an alternate. Also appointed by the Town Treasurer was Angelina Pearce as Deputy Treasurer.
- C. Discuss and possible action regarding the Emergency Management Performance Grant Resolution: J. Roman read resolution (see attached). J. Pinto made a **MOTION** to accept the Emergency Management Performance Grant Resolution as read. J. Roman seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.
- D. Discuss and possible action regarding Surplus Equipment: J. Pinto made a **MOTION** to surplus the 1997 International 4900 DT466 with 6 speed plus low, manual transmission, cracked frame, 62,000 miles, VIN#1HTSDAAR7WH538742. K. Fortier seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.
- E. Discussion regarding the feral cat program: J. Roman reported that there was a complaint about feral cats on Tower Hill Road. NECCOG was contacted and we were told that they will come out and capture if there are at least 5-6 cats and once captured they will be spayed/neutered and vaccinated but the Town is charged \$100 per cat. J. Roman questioned why we are getting charged when we pay a yearly fee to NECCOG for animal control. If we have to pay this additional fee where do the funds come from. We are paying over \$7000 a year for animal control as it is. J. Roman will contact NECCOG to discuss the

program and charges. J. Roman made a **MOTION** to table the discussion regarding the feral cat program. J. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed. Discussion: This will be added to the next agenda. D. Weingart suggested getting reports on how many calls NECCOG answered for the town.

## 7. Old Business

- A. Economic Development Commission Update – no update
- B. Discussion regarding the sale of Tutko Road: J. Roman made a **MOTION** to table the discussion regarding the sale of Tutko Road. J. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.
- C. Chaplin Museum: J. Roman reported that Bill Rose is working on getting a committee together. K. Fortier made a **MOTION** to table the discussion regarding the Chaplin Museum. J. Roman seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.
- D. American Rescue Plan Funds – COVID19: J. Roman reported that he is waiting on NECCOG about using these funds for a geothermal system for the library and senior center building. It would be cost effective in the long run, and he hopes to have answers soon. There have been a lot of issues with the current HVAC system with the heat running and not shutting down; it seems ok now, but it is on borrowed time. The system can't be replaced in middle of winter. J. Pinto made a **MOTION** to table the discussion for the ARPF funds. K. Fortier seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed. Also received was communication from Spectrum that we may be able to use these funds to build out broadband to remote areas in town not getting service. Bujak road was one of the areas to look at. J. Roman will reach out to them to see what the costs would be and if we can use these funds. We should also look into other areas in town.
- E. COVID-19: J. Roman reported that the CRF Covid funds need to be depleted by 12/31/21 there is a balance of approximately \$3500.00 and we need a couple more laptops and printers.
- F. Undeclaring the State of Emergency for the Town of Chaplin: K. Fortier made a **MOTION** to table undeclaring the State of Emergency for the Town of Chaplin. J. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. Discussion: The State still hasn't undeclared, so the town won't. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.
- G. England Road Bridge Project: J. Roman reported that he had a meeting, and they discussed a new design concept but the biggest change from the meeting is that the State or Federal Government may be able to put in another 15% of the funds making it a 95/5 match. This would be the infrastructure bill and he is waiting on details. Right now, we are on the hook for about \$800,000 for this bridge.
- H. Bedlam Road Bridge Project: No update
- I. Discuss tentative plans to celebrate Chaplin Bicentennial in 2022: Discussed earlier
- J. All Pending and New FOI Requests: None
- K. Department of Public Works: No update
- L. Discussion regarding shared and contracted services: No update

- M. Human Resources: No update
- N. Affordable Housing Plan Update: J. Roman reported that there was a meeting last night with the new committee. K. Fortier stated that the plan needs review every 5 years, and we need to be at 10% to qualify to not be subject to specific statutes which allows developers to override the town's planning and zoning for affordable housing programs. This doesn't make a lot of sense for Chaplin, but we will come up with 3 or 4 things to show the State that we do have affordable housing and our regulations support this via accessory apartments and mixed use in the business district. This will be part of the plan and provide to the State. The committee will meet again in February and Jim Larkin from NECCOG will put together something for the committee to review. The grant we received from the State will pay NECCOG to do this which needs to be used by the end of March.
- O. STEAP Grant – Electronic Programmable Sign: We will get reimbursed in two payments so we can request the first payment now then when the project is done request the rest.
- P. USDA Grant – Purchase of a new firetruck: J. Pinto is still looking into the interest rate if we will be charged due to any delays from the manufacturer.
- Q. New road at South Chaplin Cemetery/Route 198: J. Roman stated that he is not sure how to move forward on this. We have an estimate from the surveyor which is very high and asked for more quotes from other surveyors. The Board discussed repairing the bridge instead but because it is a feeder brook it changes the dynamics of repair and costs. They discussed the costs of bridge repair vs closing the bridge and putting in a new road. J. Pinto asked if this would this fall under the new infrastructure program. The road would cost about 1/2 of what the bridge repair would cost. The road would also give more parking for the cemetery instead of parking on Route 198.
- R. Intersection at North Bear Hill Road and Route 198: Discussed earlier
- S. Chaplin Street flags: J. Roman counted 28 poles, but it still needs to be determined whose poles they are to get permission to put flags on them. We need to budget these funds, maybe under the Bicentennial funds.
- T. Speed limit Road Signs: J. Roman stated as of 11/22 signs are near 209 Tower Hill and 176 Palmer Road. He would like to see the data from the signs and see how the speeding is and have resident Trooper patrol these roads. Other areas in town were discussed specifically high accident areas between Bolduc Lane and Bujak Extension.
- U. Benjamin Chaplin's cupboard update: No update

**8. Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion.**

- D. Weingart stated that regarding the ARPA funds for expanding broadband that there are probably other areas in town that could really help students who do not have this access. He volunteered to look into what areas need service. J. Randall asked if there will be a public hearing regarding the new road and J. Roman stated yes.

**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

Economic Development Commission Update

Discussion regarding the sale of Tutko Road

Chaplin Museum

American Rescue Plan Funds – COVID19

COVID-19

Undeclaring the State of Emergency for the Town of Chaplin

England Road Bridge Project

Bedlam Road Bridge Project

Discuss tentative plans to celebrate Chaplin Bicentennial in 2022

All Pending and New FOI Requests

Department of Public Works

Discussion regarding shared and contracted services

Human Resources

Affordable Housing Plan Update

STEAP Grant – Electronic Programmable Sign

USDA Grant – Purchase of a new firetruck

New road at South Chaplin Cemetery/Route 198.

Intersection at North Bear Hill Road and Route 198.

Chaplin Street flags.

Speed limit Road Signs

Benjamin Chaplin's cupboard update

Discussion regarding the feral cat program

**10. Date, time, and place of next meeting (January 6, 2022, at 7:00pm, Chaplin Town Hall).****11. Adjourn:** K. Fortier made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:51pm. J. Roman seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Suzanne Krodel, Administrative Assistant*

