

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
Chaplin, Connecticut  
Thursday, February 3, 2022**

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Richard Weingart, Chairman/Board of Finance; Dennis O'Brien, Town Attorney.

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:10pm
2. **First Audience of Citizens:** D. Weingart asked if there was an update regarding the internet buildout in town. J. Roman stated that they are looking at Bujak Road and that there are five other homes that do not have it. Charter also mentioned they wanted to invest some funds in this project too, he is waiting to hear back from them.
3. **Additions to the Agenda:** None
4. **Approve minutes of the Board of Selectmen regular meeting on January 6, 2022, and special meeting minutes on January 18, 2022, and January 25, 2022.** K. Fortier made a **MOTION** to approve the 1/6/22 regular meeting minutes. J. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor, **MOTION** passed. J. Pinto made a **MOTION** to approve the 1/25/22 special meeting minutes. K. Fortier seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor, **MOTION** passed.
5. **Communications and Reports**
  - A. **Trooper Report:** J. Roman stated that he received good feedback regarding the scam presentation at the Senior Center from the Trooper. K. Fortier made a **MOTION** to accept the Trooper report. J. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.
  - B. **Board Members Reports:** None
  - C. **Board of Finance Discussion:** D. Weingart reported that the final audit for FY2020-21 is in which should have been filed with State Tuesday morning. We ended up with \$209,000 operating surplus. The projected unassigned fund balance is about \$100,000 more than anticipated at last year's town meeting. On the revenue side, the collection rate in the past year was 97.25% but since going to Windham the current year projection is at 98%. We are in the FY22-23 budget cycle and budgets are due back 2/10. The BOS have until 3/14 to present at the BOF meeting. The BOE will come in with their budget a week after. Health insurance premiums are going up 15% this year. FY20-21 grand list report from the Assessor has gone up this year. A \$1,000,000 increase from new homes, decrease about 3 million for Eversource/Algonquin station depreciations. J. Roman and D. Weingart will need to get together with BOE to discuss CIP and to plan on scheduling the next meeting. Soon they should be getting enrollment numbers from the schools. For the budget meetings the

BOF would like documents online like last year. J. Roman informed D. Weingart that he will be working on moving some financial tasks over to the Treasurer from the Administrative Assistant so other projects can be worked on.

- D. **Correspondence:** J. Roman read the update from Ad Hoc Bicentennial Chair, Leslie Ricklin, which included fundraising, signage, new Facebook page, a talk about Benjamin Chaplin's will and the parade.
- E. **Building/Infrastructure:** J. Roman reported that he is waiting on information on the ARPA COVID funds for Frontier costs to add broadband to Bujak Road and other areas in need.

## 6. New Business

- A. **Tax Collector Refunds:** K. Fortier made a **MOTION** to approve a tax refund to Carelot Children's Center for \$33.90. J. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.
- B. **Review the Board of Finance Budget calendar:** The Board reviewed the budget calendar; budgets are due on 2/10. The Town meeting and public hearing timeline was discussed.
- C. **Discussion and possible action regarding the Electronic Sign Policy and Procedure.** The policy wasn't available for the meeting. J. Roman explained the outline of the policy and K. Fortier stated that Planning and Zoning wanted to be sure the church could have announcements on the sign regarding food donations.
- D. **Discussion regarding a Virtual Public Meeting for the England Road Bridge Design scheduled for 3/30/2022.** J. Roman reported that a virtual meeting is scheduled for 3/30/22 to review the design. We will be at the Senior Center with a remote connection for those who do not have the ability to connect from home. We are waiting on the packet for the meeting.
- E. **Resignations and Appointments:** K. Fortier made a **MOTION** to appoint Carl Hyburg as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission with a term of 2/2/20 through 2/1/23. J. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed. J. Pinto made a **MOTION** to appoint Juan Roman III as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission with a term of 2/2/21 through 2/1/24. K. Fortier seconded the **MOTION**. Discussion: D. Weingart questioned if an elected official can be a voting member. J. Roman will look into it. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.

## 7. Old Business

- A. **Economic Development Commission Update:** No update
- B. **Affordable Housing Plan Update:** No update
- C. **Chaplin Museum:** J. Roman made a **MOTION** to approve moving forward with the moving of the museum and present it to the Historic District Commission. K. Fortier seconded the **MOTION**. Discussion: The Board discussed the location between the library and the cemetery and price for the slab and moving of the building. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.

- D. American Rescue Plan Funds – COVID19:** J. Roman has been reading the Final Rules and just had another webinar and interpretation for the 160-page document. Heating and drainage for the town may be an option depending on location and how old system is.
- E. COVID-19:** J. Roman reported that they picked up more test kits and distribution will be Tuesday from 5-7pm, to be announced shortly. Also, the library, senior center, and town hall will have test kits available for pick up. Next week Jim Randall will go out to locations where seniors are to update list to see if they need a kit.
- F. All Pending and New FOI Requests:** J. Roman reviewed the requests with the Board. (See Selectman's Office for details)
- G. Department of Public Works:** The Town hired a new on call driver, he has been trained and is ready to plow if needed.
- H. USDA Grant – Purchase of a new firetruck:** We will be asking for a 12-month extension because the truck will not be ready in time. K. Fortier read Resolution 1823 and made a **MOTION** to approve Resolution 1823 (see attached). J. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.
- I. Intersection at North Bear Hill Road and Route 198:** A pre-bid meeting was held on 2/1 and bids are due 2/24. All permits are in place.
- J. Benjamin Chaplin's cupboard update:** The cupboard is still located at the old post office and waiting for room to be worked on.
- 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
- New Business
- Tax Collector Refunds
  - Discussion and possible action regarding the Electronic Sign Policy and Procedure.
  - Resignations and Appointments
- Old Business
- Economic Development Commission Update
  - Affordable Housing Plan Update
  - Chaplin Museum
  - American Rescue Plan Funds – COVID19
  - COVID-19
  - All Pending and New FOI Requests

- Department of Public Works
- USDA Grant – Purchase of a new firetruck
- Intersection at North Bear Hill Road and Route 198.
- Benjamin Chaplin’s cupboard update

**10. Date, time, and place of next meeting (March 3, 2022, at 7:00pm, Chaplin Town Hall).**

**11. Discussion in executive session with the town attorney pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes section 1-200(6)(B) regarding strategy with respect to pending claims.** J. Roman made a **MOTION** to enter Executive Session at 8:05pm. J. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.

J. Roman, K. Fortier, J. Pinto, and Attorney Dennis O’Brien entered executive session at 8:05pm.

Executive Session ended at 8:40pm.  
Regular meeting resumed at 8:40pm.

**12. Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Suzanne Krodel  
Administrative Assistant*

RESOLUTION NO. 1823

A resolution of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Chaplin agreeing to apply for financial assistance with the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development to finance a firetruck for the Chaplin Volunteer Fire Department. Be it further resolved that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Chaplin authorizes the First Selectman, Juan Roman III to sign all documents relating to the USDA Rural Development loan and/or grant.

PASSED and APPROVED this 3rd day of February 2022.

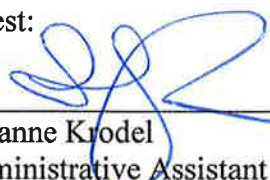
  
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Juan Roman III, First Selectman

  
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Kenneth Fortier, Selectman

  
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Anthony Pinto, Selectman

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Attest:

  
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Suzanne Krodell  
Administrative Assistant