

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
Chaplin, Connecticut  
Thursday, March 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; Valerie Garrison, Finance Manager; Diana Alvarez, Town Treasurer; Dave Stone, DPW Supervisor (Remote); Rory Smith (Remote), Rusty Lanzit (Remote)

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm
2. First Audience of Citizens: Dick Weingart asked if there was an update regarding the Charter high speed internet project. J. Roman stated that Charter will do a connection of 12 passes for \$122,539. They will pay \$30,000 of this leaving \$92,539 for the town to pay.
3. Additions to the Agenda: None
4. Approve minutes of the Board of Selectmen regular meeting on February 3, 2022 and special meeting minutes on February 8, 2022. *K. Fortier made a **MOTION** to approve the 2/3/22 and 2/8/22 meeting minutes. J. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.*
5. Communications and Reports
  - A. Trooper Report: The Trooper has concerns about the number of neighbor disputes and asked the Board if they could all brainstorm on how it can be addressed. He also did a talk at the Senior Center about scams.
  - B. Board Members Reports: J. Roman read correspondence from Leslie Ricklin, Chair of the Ad Hoc Bicentennial Committee, regarding upcoming events.
  - C. Board of Finance Discussion: D. Weingart reported to the Board that budget requests are coming in and that the finance and administrative departments are working closely together on electronic documents. On 3/14 the Board of Selectmen will be presenting their budgets to the Board of Finance and on 3/21 the Board of Education presents theirs. We have a preliminary estimate on State funding, and it is about the same. Also discussed was the mill rate for motor vehicles will be capped at 29 mills across the state and if above 29 then the State will make up the difference, but still needs approval. D. Weingart will reach out to J. Roman next week regarding another CIP meeting.

- D. Correspondence: None
  - E. Building/Infrastructure: The Board discussed the mold problem in the Trooper's office. They received a quote from Servpro for approximately \$15,000 to remove the mold. Before this is done, they need to determine what the building will be used for. J. Roman suggested a visitor center and J. Pinto stated there may be funds available for tourism in Eastern CT. The Board will research this option.
6. New Business
- A. Tax Collector Refunds: None
  - B. Discussion and possible action regarding the Electronic Sign Policy and Procedure. The policy was reviewed by the Board and there was discussion about allowing school news and non-profit information to be posted. *K. Fortier made a **MOTION** to approve message sign usage for the purposes of being able to have something in writing this is what we are going to do with the Electronic Sign Policy and Procedure. J. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. Discussion: K. Fortier stated that the church should be allowed to post information for Benjamin's closet and food distribution. J. Pinto would also like to put fundraiser events for the firehouse on the sign. Town sponsored events will be approved. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.*
  - C. Resignations and Appointments: None
  - D. Discussion regarding the sale of Tutko Road: J. Roman stated we are waiting on language from Attorney Dennis O'Brien to present the sale of Tutko Road at the next Town meeting. Rory Smith, Tutko resident, discussed his proposal to purchase the road from the Town and that he is opposed to the easement as this would destroy the value of it. He feels if he purchases the property the easement would be giving something for free to another resident which isn't fair. He offered the Weingarts access to the back of their property indefinitely. J. Roman stated that all the information has been referred to the Town Attorney for review then the Board can discuss it further.
  - E. Discussion and possible action regarding bids for the Intersection at North Bear Hill Road and Route 198 project: Bids have been received for the project (see attached) and reviewed. *J. Pinto made a **MOTION** to accept the bid from Earth Dynamics for the intersection at N. Bear Hill Road and Rte 198 project in the amount of \$98,591. K. Fortier seconded the **MOTION**. Discussion: Earth Dynamics worked on North Bear Hill Road before on another project. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.*
  - F. Discussion and possible action regarding bids for the Fireworks Display for Chaplin Bicentennial Celebration: Bids have been received for the fireworks display (see attached). *J. Pinto made a **MOTION** to accept the bid from Atlas Pyrovision for \$10,000. K. Fortier seconded the **MOTION**. Discussion: The bid is within the \$10,000 budget. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.*
  - G. Discuss and possible action regarding the opting out of state mandates in Public Act 21-29, Section 5 and 6a-d (State's accessory apartment

mandates): K. Fortier explained that the act would mandate State requirements and take the authority away from the Town. We have in place in the regulations accessory apartments which have been approved by the Town and the zoning commission recommends opting out. *K. Fortier made a **MOTION** to opt out of the state mandates in Public Act 21-29, Section 5 and 6a-d (State's accessory apartment mandates), per Planning & Zoning recommendation. J. Roman seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. **MOTION** passed.*

J. Roman stated that regarding the executive session he was informed it didn't have to go in executive session to discuss the employee handbook. The employee 457 retirement plan offers a match of \$1500. In the employee handbook no one is eligible until after 90 days of uninterrupted service but in an email in 2010 it states they have to wait a full year, so he wants clarification regarding this to correct the handbook. Also, he would like to bring the \$1500 to \$2000 or higher. J. Pinto stated they should go by the handbook for the 90 days and also feels it should be a match, one for one, up to a certain percentage. He wants to see a better retirement plan for the employees. Valerie Garrison, Finance Manager, stated that it used to be \$3000 that the town matched then it was changed last year; if you put \$1500 in you get \$1500 matched. If an employee puts in any amount, she will match it up to \$1500, this just started recently. J. Pinto stated that it wasn't designed that way, they had to put \$1500 in before it is matched and that is how it was always explained to him. He feels it should be a match as they put the funds in and not wait until the \$1500 is put in. The Board agreed to continue discussing this issue.

J. Pinto asked about the bargaining unit employees health insurance from the union instead of the town's insurance. Val Garrison stated that if they went to the union insurance the town would save an enormous amount of money, \$17,000 a year for two employees. They Town would still have to pay the Teamsters the premium like they do now with the current health insurance. The board discussed if this would happen during negotiations or now. J. Pinto stated that with the Teamsters if the insurance increases, then the employees would pay it, it wouldn't be the Town's responsibility. Val Garrison stated that before they switch the employees want to be sure the Town agrees to pay the premiums to the Teamsters. For the Teamsters it is about \$1800 a month and with Connecticare it is about \$2700 with the new 15% increase. J. Pinto stated that the labor attorney, Eileen Duggan, can look at it so we don't pay over the premium in the new union contract. Once we get the answer, we can have a special meeting regarding the town paying the premium.

D. Weingart reminded the Board to involve the Board of Finance with these financial projections and to keep in mind the additional expenses can drive up the mill rate.

## 7. Old Business

- A. Economic Development Commission Update: No update
- B. Affordable Housing Plan Update: Meeting is scheduled on 3/7 at 6pm
- C. Chaplin Museum: J. Roman talked to the Chair of the Historic District Commission and will file paperwork for a hearing regarding moving the museum.
- D. American Rescue Plan Funds – COVID19: J. Roman reported that towns that received less than 10 million dollars can spend the funds at their own discretion. Chaplin is one of these towns and we can use it for infrastructure projects, i.e., HVAC systems. This also has to go to the town residents for input on where they think the ARPA funds can be spent.
- E. COVID-19: All charges were submitted to OPM and no more funds are available
- F. All Pending and New FOI Requests: None
- G. USDA Grant – Purchase of a new firetruck: We are waiting on the extension that was filed.
- H. Benjamin Chaplin's cupboard: No update
- I. Discussion regarding a Virtual Public Meeting for the England Road Bridge Design scheduled for 3/30/2022: The State will be presenting the design plans to the town.

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

D. Weingart stated that even though R. Smith offered access to Tutko Road once purchased what happens in the event the property is sold then the agreement is gone. So, in reference to R. Smith's comments about the easement being free, he is willing to pay \$2000 towards the easement leaving the balance of \$8000 for the purchase of the road for R. Smith to pay.

## 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
- 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  
USDA Grant – Purchase of a new firetruck  
Benjamin Chaplin's cupboard update  
England Road Bridge

10. Date, time, and place of next meeting (April 7, 2022, at 7:00pm, Chaplin Town Hall).
11. Discussion in executive session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes section 1-200(6)(B) regarding employee benefits: No executive session held.
12. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Suzanne Krodel  
Administrative Assistant*

**TABULATION SHEET FOR NORTH BEAR HILL ROAD INTERSECTION  
REALIGNMENT AT PHOENIXVILLE ROAD (RTE 198)  
FOR THE TOWN OF CHAPLIN  
FY 2021-2022**

<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>BID AMOUNT</b>
Gerber Construction	\$161,180
1 Nutmeg Drive	
Ellington, CT 06029	

<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>BID AMOUNT</b>
Suchocki & Son, Inc	\$176,600
43 Hatchetts Hill Road	
Old Lyme, CT 06371	

<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>BID AMOUNT</b>
Nunes Companies	\$123,050
658 Center Street	
Ludlow, MA 01056	

<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>BID AMOUNT</b>
Earth Dynamics LLC	\$98,591
46 Bradbury Lane	
Coventry, CT 06238	

<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>BID AMOUNT</b>

<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>BID AMOUNT</b>

<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>BID AMOUNT</b>

<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>BID AMOUNT</b>

TABULATION SHEET FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY

SEPTEMBER 2022

FOR THE TOWN OF CHAPLIN

FY 2022-2023

COMPANY	BID AMOUNT
Atlas PyroVision Entertainment Group	\$10,000.00
POB 498	
Jaffrey, NH 03452	

COMPANY	BID AMOUNT
Pyrotecnico	\$12,000.00
299 Wilson Road, Ne Castle, PA 16101	

COMPANY	BID AMOUNT

COMPANY	BID AMOUNT

COMPANY	BID AMOUNT

COMPANY	BID AMOUNT

COMPANY	BID AMOUNT

COMPANY	BID AMOUNT

# Town of Chaplin Electronic Message Sign Use Guidelines

The purpose of the “message sign” is to utilize technology to efficiently and effectively improve communication to the community, which will improve services and the quality of life to the residents of Chaplin.

The town has developed guidelines to help with the utilization of the message sign, and to assist town staff in determining priorities. They are meant as guidelines to help efficiently and effectively manage the use of the sign but may need to be adjusted depending on circumstances. Circumstances might include number of requests, the type of other requests, and emergencies. The towns guidelines are intended to avoid overuse of the sign (aka too many messages) which would diminish the effectiveness of all messages. A lower priority message may be bumped, or posted less frequently, if there are numerous higher priority messages. Final determination of priorities will be made by the First Selectman’s office

## **Order of Priorities:**

1. Town of Chaplin Emergencies - i.e., Amber Alerts, Silver Alerts, Storm Information, Important Closures, etc.
2. Town of Chaplin Events and Activities - i.e., Curbside Bulky Pickup, Referendums, Town Meetings, Recreation Events. Town of Chaplin includes any event or activity that is sponsored by the town or that the town would financially benefit from.
3. Concerts and other major events.
4. \*Special and \*Significant Activities or Events

*\*Special means once or twice per year.*

*\* Significant means there would likely be 100 or more attendees.*

Some examples of events or activities that would **not** be allowed on the message sign: a private yard sale, a recurring or weekly non-profit activity (i.e., weekly bingo, weekly religious service schedule), any “for profit” advertising, a local non-profit having a small self-help class.

**NOT TO BE USED FOR POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL OR PERSONAL PURPOSES**

Requests should be submitted to Suzanne Krodel at [assistant@chaplinct.org](mailto:assistant@chaplinct.org) at least one week in advance of your requested start date. Messages will likely not be run more than 30 days in advance of the event. Provide specific information for your message, be concise, images are encouraged (JPG> files), the sign has great capabilities including high resolution.

Any questions over the guidelines should be addressed to Juan Roman III, First Selectman, at [firstselectman@chaplinct.org](mailto:firstselectman@chaplinct.org)