

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Chaplin, Connecticut
Thursday, March 2, 2023**

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

Members Absent: Kenneth Fortier, Selectman

Others Present: Richard Weingart, Chairman/Board of Finance

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm
2. **First Audience of Citizens:** Johanne Philbrick, 107 Chaplin Street, spoke of her disappointment that the institutions of the Town of Chaplin such as the Congregational Church and the Old Museum no longer function as the social hubs of the community that they used to and believes that residents should stand up and be vocal in support of the use of these institutions. J Roman thanked Mrs. Philbrick and stated that citizen's concerns are taken very seriously.
3. **Additions to the Agenda:** Joe Pinto requested the addition of three items to New Business: F)) Surplus equipment; G) Discuss adding a monthly Fire Department Report to the agenda going forward; H) discussion of pros/cons of a Town Manager.
4. **Approve minutes of the Board of Selectmen regular meeting on February 2, 2023** *J. Pinto made a MOTION to approve the February 2, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. J. Roman seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.*
5. **Communications and Reports**
 - A. Trooper Report – TFC Shaun Tucker submitted statistics collected between the dates of 02/01/2023 and 02/28/2023. See attached report.
 - B. Board Members Reports:
None
 - C. Board of Finance Discussion: D Weingart, Chair of the Board of Finance, reported that the Town Audit is complete and has been filed with the State. He also requested that J Roman keep his eye out for any requests received for the submission of a fiscal health report. D Weingart also stated that budget requests for FY 2023-2024 are coming in from the various departments. Finance Manager, Val Garrison, is inputting request into spreadsheets. The Grand List from the Tax Assessor is showing a \$4.8 million decrease in tax revenue. J Roman asked about the budget progress for the Board of education. Both schools should be finalized mid-March.
 - D. Correspondence: Letter from Johanne Philbrick addressed to the Board of selectmen dated February 11, 2023 concerning the sentimental and financial importance of the Chaplin Museum was read out by J Roman. Please see attached letter. Discussion occurred regarding the safety issues

preventing the Old Museum from being open to public occupancy at this point in time. J Roman stated that alternative locations for the building are being considered and that it will cost approximately \$89,000 just to move the building to a space that is more accommodating for both parking and accessibility for the disabled. The movement of the building would first need to be approved by the Historic District Commission and then pass at Town Meeting. Until then, Eastern Highland Health District and the Chaplin Building inspector have stated serious safety issues which will not allow occupancy at this time.

Building/Infrastructure: A Supplemental Price Proposal by Gordian to be added to the Gordian HVAC Senior Center/Library was reviewed. This proposal is for the replacement of the floor and ceiling tiles in the old cafeteria at the Senior Center. **Joe Pinto made a MOTION to accept the proposed cost of \$29,195.16 made by Gordian for the replacement of flooring and ceiling tiles at the Senior Center. J Roman seconded the MOTION. All in favor, Motion Passed.** J Roman reported that one RFP for engineering services for the Bedlam Road Bridge project was received by WMC Consulting Engineers for a total of \$174,996.29. The BOS to review and discuss before final decision is made. J Roman also received notification from Eversource that a beneficial rate change for service to the Fire Department is being offered to the Town. J Pinto stated that he feels that the Town should go with the proposed rate change and see what happens over time.

E. Treasurer Report: None

F. Department of Public Works Report: DPW supervisor submitted a report to the BOS which was reviewed with no discussion.

6. New Business

A. Tax Collector Refunds: **J Pinto made a MOTION to approve tax collector refunds to Robert Williamson (deceased) \$82.27 to be paid to his wife Kathi Williamson; Gregory & Diane Selivonchik \$109.02; Honda Lease Trust \$885.55; Mike Williams \$2.27; Mike Williams \$10.39; Warren and Marguerite Church \$10.00. J Roman seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.**

B. Appointments and Resignations: **J Roman made a MOTION to approve the appointment of Pat Pogmore (U) as the Town's Eastern Regional Tourism District Representative with a term beginning 2/11/2023 and ending 2/1/2026. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.**

C. Review and discuss CTDOT Amendment No.1 to the Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects. J Roman explained to the Board that this amendment was sent by the State for signature allowing the agreement to be temporarily extended while the State continues work on the new upcoming 10 year agreement. No Resolution is needed, and this was presented for information only.

- D. Discussion of Selectmen's Budget: ***J Roman made a MOTION to accept approved wages. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in Favor, MOTION passed.*** J Roman is proposing an increase to the 457k Retirement Fund from \$1,500 to \$4,000. This proposal will be presented to the BOF on 3/13/2023.
- E. Discussion of Veteran's Base Camp Food Pantry: J Roman reported that the Veteran's Base Camp Food Pantry will now be open to all Chaplin residents on the second and fourth Saturday of the month from 2pm-4pm. An announcement will be put out on Google Groups with details.
- F. Additions to Surplus Equipment: J Pinto reported that the ET 109 fire truck is no longer in service and most equipment has been transferred to the new ET. ***J Pinto made a MOTION to place ET 109 into Surplus. J Roman seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.***
- G. Discussion of the Pros and Cons of a Town Manager This discussion item was tabled until the return of Selectman Kenneth Fortier next month.

7. Old Business

- A. American Rescue Plan Funds: No significant spending to be reported.
- B. All Pending and New FOI Requests: None
- C. Discussion of Emergency Service TV Monitor: The new TV monitor is now at the Fire House and safely stored. Alex Hill has offered to provide training on its use as needed.
- D. Discussion and Possible Action for the Purchase of Hurst Battery Powered Rescue Tools for the New Firetruck: FFPs for battery powered rescue tools were published and solicited the week of 2/8/2023. No responses were received on due date of 2/28/2023.
- E. USDA Grant-Purchase of a New Fire Truck: Re-imbusement package was submitted to the USDA on 2/16/2023.
- F. Discuss Updates on Bedlam Bridge and England Road Bridge RFPs for engineering services on the Bedlam Bridge project were due back and opened on the afternoon of 3/2/2023.
- G. Discuss Electronic Sign Re-imbusement status: No change in status.

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

D Weingart asked what is included in the scope of work for engineering services for the Bedlam Road Bridge Project. J Roman stated that the services are extensive including the role of clerk of the works for the entire project. J Roman to reach out to State contact to discuss bid received by WMC Consulting Engineers.

9. Agenda Suggestions for next meeting:

J Pinto suggested that a discussion item concerning funding a new fire truck be added. Also, add discussion of assessing large flag poles condition as well as a discussion of the pros and cons of hiring a Town Manager.

10. Date, time, and place of next meeting (April 6, 2023, at 7:00pm, Chaplin Town Hall).

11. Adjourn: J. Pinto made a MOTION to adjourn at 8:32 pm. J Roman seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.

*Respectfully Submitted by,
Susan Welshman
Administrative Assistant*

**TOWN OF CHAPLIN
RESIDENT STATE TROOPER
February 2023**

TO: Juan Roman; First Selectman
FROM: TFC Shaun Tucker #1237

Sir,

The following reflect the statistics collected between the dates of February 1, 2023 – February 28, 2023:

	Resident Trooper	CSP (all except RT)	TOTAL
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	45	34	79
Traffic Accident – No Injury	1	1	2
Traffic Accident – With Injury	0	1	1
Reportable Incidents	3	4	7
Traffic Stops	11	2	13

Notable events/incidents:

During the month of February the resident Trooper met with administration at both the Town's schools to assist them with a safety and security survey for the purpose of obtaining grant funding for security projects.

A missing juvenile from town was reported missing, and has since returned home safely.

A burglary/larceny was reported where the juvenile resident was home at the time of the offense. The incident remains under investigation.

An operator from the Town of Ashford was traveling on Chaplin's roadways. The operator was stopped for speeding and was subsequently found to be operating under the influence. The operator was taken into custody.

Respectfully,

TFC Shaun Tucker #1237

Susan Welshman

From: johanne.philbrick@charter.net
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2023 3:32 PM
To: Susan Welshman
Subject: Museum Access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

February 11, 2023

Chaplin Board of Selectmen
Juan Roman III
Joe Pinto
Kenneth Fortier

I am perplexed and disturbed by the Selectmen's denial of admission to the Chaplin Museum. Probably long forgotten, I founded the Museum in the seventies and with many volunteers and ten years of hard work built it into a nationally recognized institution. When my husband, Bill Philbrick, declined a third term as First Selectman, he graciously took over this volunteer role and continued to run the Museum well until it closed.

Certainly the town has liability insurance; and, if there are deterioration or safety issues, these need to be addressed immediately. I would like to plan an art show to be held at the Museum in early summer. This is necessary as Chaplin townspeople must have access to the premises in order to make an informed decision as to whether the Museum should remain stationary in its current location or be moved elsewhere.

I believe the legal term for this situation is "deterioration by neglect." This cannot happen. The Museum has too much sentimental and financial importance for Chaplin residents.

Johanne Philbrick
107 Chaplin Street