

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
Chaplin, Connecticut  
Thursday, December 7, 2017  
MINUTES – AMENDED\*\***

**Members Present:** Matthew Cunningham, First Selectman; William H. Rose IV, Selectman; Anthony (Joe) Pinto, Selectman.

**Members Absent:** None

**Others:** Richard Weingart, Chairman Board of Finance; Helen Weingart, P&Z Commission Member; Jim Randall, Emergency Mgt Director; Paul Peifer, Chairman Historic District; Sue Peifer, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals; Kitty LeShay, Historic District Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals member; Leslie Ricklin, Economic Development Commission and Library Board; Warren Church, Historic District Commission; Irene Schein, Economic Development Commission; Robert Lawlor, DPW; Diana Fiasconaro, Treasurer; other residents.

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:00pm
2. **Additions to Agenda:** None
3. **First Audience of Citizens:** Comments regarding the Horizontal Curve Project -

Paul Peifer – there are 8 new directional signs on his road, they are ugly, unnecessary, out of place in rural environment they destroy view of the bridge, more of a distraction would like them taken down. He also wants to know if the Board of Selectmen approved this project.

Helen Weingart believes these are a safety issue and the signs were blinding on rainy, black nights.

Warren Church - his farm on tower hill, 24 signs on frontage of farm, unnecessary, maybe some signs on worse curves but other curves there are no signs.

Sue Peifer – when family visited over the holiday they couldn't read road signs because curve signs were so bright, this is not safe. Only one accident in 30 years on our road.

Ms. LeShay – coming from RTE 89 to my house is beautiful, it is all ruined now. I want it gone. If we can take them down, we need to consider it. From cemetery on Tower Hill to my house maybe 6 signs are reasonable. Now it is a problem and would like a reasonable approach to this problem.

Mr. Rose asked if there was an opportunity for public input. Mr. Cunningham stated it wasn't clear to him about the public hearing. Mrs. Weingart submitted a document to the Board that Mr. Cunningham signed off on the public hearing.

Mr. Rose made motion for the Board to research alternatives and possibly liability if signs are removed. Mr. Pinto seconded the motion. All in favor. Discussion: Mr. Cunningham will contact DOT.

Mr. Weingart - This is second significant item in last 3 months that actions were taken by the Chief Executive Officer and/or Board of Selectmen without input from the Town. This situation and the solar panel project. There is ample evidence in documentation that someone signed off on not having a public input hearing on this. You need to talk to people in this town.

Mr. Randall – stated that there should not be a change in direction at the intersection of Rte. 198 and England Road.

Mrs. Ricklin – stated that the old post office would be an ideal spot for a museum. Also, she was appalled at the progress of the Dissolution Study Committee.

Ms. DeVane – stated that it is disfavored by State Historic Preservation Department to move buildings of historic significance.

Mr. Mckleroy – reported to the Board that a letter was sent to Mr. Cunningham from the State Historic Preservation Office regarding the moving of the museum stating removal of this building will affect appearance – relocation of building would impact understanding of the historic district.

Brian Dazy from 60 Nyberg Road wants to state for the record the issue he is having with his neighbors, the Fosters. His complaint consisted of 2 junk vehicles which zoning will not do anything about because they are parked on Town property. Mr. Dazy spoke with Mr. Cunningham and was told the cars should not be there but they have not been moved or ticketed. He also complained about their garbage cans not being brought back to their property and garbage all over the place attracting animals. There is also a pile of wood from these neighbors on Town property. He stated he was told by Town employee, Sue, to move the garbage cans which he was ticketed for doing and is now going to court. Also, the roads are narrow and the snow is not being pushed back when plowing; the DPW can use his property to turn around if necessary. There is also issues with their dog.

4. **Approve minutes of Regular Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2017:** Mr. Cunningham made a **MOTION** to approve the regular meeting minutes for the Board of Selectmen meeting on 11/2/17, Mr. Rose seconded the **MOTION**. Joe Pinto abstained. **MOTION** passed.

5. **Communications and Reports**

- A. Trooper Report – November 2017:** Board reviewed numbers, still consistent month to month.
- B. Board Members Reports:** Mr. Pinto expressed concerns that the DPW staff moved barrels from CT Casket Company to the garage and the potential hazardous materials in these barrels (DEEP from the State cited the Town for these). Employees should not be moving these barrels, nor should they have been accepted from CT Casket Company. Mr. Cunningham stated that it was his understanding they were empty and it was part of the deal when purchasing the oil burner from CT Casket Company – the barrels were taken for the steel. It cost approximately \$1100 to remove and test and contents were waste motor oil and antifreeze, we did not get fined by the State. Mr. Rose said the Board should have been made aware of this issue.
- C. Board of Finance Discussion:** Mr. Weingart reported that budget packets are going out, due in February 2018. CIP Committee will have their first meeting in on 12/18. Mr. Weingart discussed the audit review and that there needs to be more discussion regarding the Board of Education budget issues, need to monitor the financial transactions throughout the school, central office – maybe create a working group from BOE, BOS, and BOF. Mr. Rose stated that it seems they may be under staffed seeing Noel Cormier only works 6 hours a week, Chaplin has a full-time financial person.
- D. Correspondence:** None
- E. Building/Infrastructure:** No updates
- F. Discussion regarding Recreation Commission:** No updates, Commission has not met recently.
- G. \*\*\*Discussion regarding the Chaplin Community and Economic Development Commission**  
Ms. Schein is representing the Community and Economic Development Commission and would like to request funds for the Chaplin Country Fair/Maypole festival. The Spring festival will have bands, activity tents, food vendors, advertising, t-shirts (not necessary but can sell to pay for them) requesting approximately \$1800-1900. The commission will look into sponsors too. Ms. Schein also suggested the Recreation Director position coordinate the yearly event, but suggested the job description be looked at again; there are too many duties for the salary offered. Mr. Rose made a motion to support the Chaplin Community and Economic Development Commission in requesting approval from the Board of Finance for festival funds. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. All in favor.

**6. New Business**

- A. Tax Collector Refunds:** None
- B. Resignations/Appointments: Appointment of Brendan Kane, regular member to the Board of Assessment Appeals.** Mr. Cunningham made a **MOTION** to appoint Brendan Kane as a member of the Board of Assessment Appeals with a term from 11/7/17 to 11/2/21. Mr. Rose seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor.
- C. Discuss and possible action on 2018 Board of Selectmen regular meeting dates.** Mr. Cunningham made a **MOTION** to approve the attached 2018 regular meeting dates for the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Pinto seconded the motion. All in favor.
- D. Discuss and possible action on animal nuisance contract between the Town of Chaplin and Claude Garritt.** Mr. Rose made a **MOTION** to approve the animal nuisance contract between the Town of Chaplin and Claude Garritt with the effective date of 12/7/17. Mr. Cunningham seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor.
- E. Discuss and possible action regarding a hidden driveway sign for 34 Cross Road.** Item 6E tabled until the next meeting to give the Board members the opportunity to drive by the property to see if a sign is needed or not.
- F. Discuss and possible action regarding group medical/dental health insurance affiliation.** Mr. Cunningham explained that he needs the Board's permission to enter the medical insurance pool with the Board of Education. Mr. Cunningham made a **MOTION** to enter the group medical/dental health insurance affiliation; Mr. Rose seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor.

**7. Old Business**

- A. STEAP Grant (North Bear Hill Bridge):** Mr. Cunningham reported that the project is approximately 2-3 weeks behind due to power outages and flooding from the storm. An official request went to DOT and engineers to allow the contractor to do extra work in the winter; including some Saturdays.
- B. Discussion regarding handicapped access at the Senior Center:** Mr. Cunningham reported that the project is delayed due to the mismatch of color from the new hardware to the existing hardware, some Senior CTR Board members did not like this. He will be meeting with the contractor on Tuesday morning and may have to go with the color they have if they can't find a matching one.
- C. Discussion regarding use of Community Center:** The Board discussed the tile and a new contractor will be in to fix, also talked about the Recreation Commission taking over booking events in the room. Mr. Cunningham will bring to the next Rec Commission meeting. Also, Action Air will be getting the Town a quote on a new energy project (CIP Project).
- D. Status of Chaplin Museum and William Ross Library re-location:** Mr. Cunningham read a letter from resident, Nell DeVane, regarding her interest in purchasing the William Ross Library. The Board discussed the process of selling a Town building, starting with presenting the option to the public at a Town meeting. To get a good turnout of voters, it was recommended to add to the Annual Town meeting agenda scheduled for May 2018.
- E. Status of Dissolution Study and Add/Withdraw Grades Study:** The Board discussed the status of the study, report due by 12/21/17 – the Committee may or may not recommend dissolution. The next Dissolution Study meeting is scheduled on 12/18 at 6pm.
- F. Discuss tentative plans to celebrate Chaplin Bicentennial in 2022:** This event will come out of CIP funds. A working group should be started to start planning.
- G. Discuss All Pending and New FOI Requests:** Helen Weingart submitted an FOI request on 11/30/17 asking for all documentation regarding the Horizontal Curve Project. Electronic copies were turned over to Mrs. Weingart.
- H. Human Resources Updates/Changes:** None
- I. Discussion regarding the Department of Public Works:** Mr. Cunningham reported that all snow equipment was prepped and ready to go. Mr. Rose stated that the truck the Town will be purchasing from Groton will be available the end of the year or early January. This truck is in excellent shape, low miles, and will replace one of the existing trucks.
- J. Discussion regarding Public Safety and Resident Trooper Program:** No update

- K. Discussion on Energize CT Grant:** Mr. Cunningham reported that Action Air will be coming soon to do quotes on HVAC systems in both the Senior Center community room and Town Hall. Also, \$5000 of the grant funds has been taken back from the State leaving \$5000 balance to spend.
- L. Discussion regarding leasing space in the Old Post Office Building:** DPW staff are working on repair in the winter during downtime.
- M. Conservation Commission – Review status of commission and ordinance:** Juan Sanchez, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, will be revitalizing group after his retirement this year.
- N. COST vs CCM membership:** This will be addressed at the next budget session – the Board agreed to keep COST.

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

Jim Randall asked if the William Ross library has been appraised. Mr. Cunningham stated that they will be looking into an appraisal. Mr. Randall asked if opioid overdose cases can be added to the Trooper report.

Chris Mckleroy reminded the Board that he had written 2 letters showing interest in purchasing the old museum. He also asked if this building can be appraised when the Ross library is done.

**9. Other Business**

- A. Personnel Matter: CONFIDENTIAL,** and subject to be discussed in **Executive Session** per General Statutes section 1-200(6)(A), upon motion and vote of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Rose made a **MOTION** to enter Executive Session at 9:30pm. Mr. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. All in favor. Mr. Rose, Mr. Pinto, and Mr. Cunningham entered into Executive Session.

Executive session ended at 9:57pm.

- B. Possible action on items discussed in Executive Session.**

Mr. Rose made a **MOTION** to add a designated mechanic position at a rate of 2.5% added to employee's regular hourly rate. Mr. Pinto seconded the **MOTION**. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

**10. Agenda Suggestions for next meeting**

Communications and Reports

Trooper Report

Board Members Reports

Board of Finance Discussion

Correspondence

Building/Infrastructure

Discussion regarding Recreation Commission

Discussion regarding the Chaplin Community and Economic Development Commission

New Business

Tax Collector Refunds

Resignations/Appointments

Old Business

STEAP Grant (North Bear Hill Bridge)

Discussion regarding handicapped access at the Senior Center

Discussion regarding use of Community Center

Status of Chaplin Museum and William Ross Library re-location

Status of Dissolution Study and Add/Withdraw Grades Study

Discuss tentative plans to celebrate Chaplin Bicentennial in 2022.

Discuss All Pending and New FOI Requests

Human Resources Updates/Changes  
Discussion regarding the Department of Public Works  
Discussion regarding Public Safety and Resident Trooper Program  
Discussion on Energize CT Grant  
Discussion regarding leasing space in the Old Post Office Building.  
Conservation Commission – Review status of commission and ordinance.  
Discuss and possible action regarding a hidden driveway sign for 34 Cross Road.

11. **Date, time, and place of next meeting (January 4, 2018 @ 7:00pm @ the Town Hall)**
12. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 10:05pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Gluck  
Administrative Assistant/Recording Clerk*

## **Board of Selectmen** **2018 Regular Meeting Dates**

January 4, 2018  
February 1, 2018  
March 1, 2018  
April 5, 2018  
May 3, 2018  
June 7, 2018  
July 5, 2018  
August 2, 2018  
September 6, 2018  
October 4, 2018  
November 1, 2018  
December 6, 2018