

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Chaplin, Connecticut
Thursday, February 2, 2017
MINUTES**

Members Present: Matthew Cunningham, First Selectman; Irene Schein, Selectman.

Members Absent: William H. Rose IV

Others Present: Dick Weingart, Chairman Board of Finance; Jim Randall, Director Emergency Preparedness; Suzanne Gluck, Administrative Assistant/Recording Clerk.

1. **Call to Order:** Matthew Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.
2. **Additions to Agenda:** None
3. **First Audience of Citizens:** Jim Randall asked about the status of the Library sign. Matthew Cunningham said it was currently with the Historic District Commission and Library Board. Jim Randall also asked about the status of the shelves in the bathrooms and the awnings at the Firehouse. Matthew Cunningham spoke with other fire department members and they don't see a need for awnings and hasn't heard back about the shelves. He suggested to Jim Randall that he discuss requests with the fire department first and then if they all agree to changes you can bring to the Board of Selectmen.

Dick Weingart inquired about a potential opening of a camp for disabled residents near Bedlam four corners. Matthew Cunningham stated that nothing has been decided on this, it is currently with zoning and no application has been filed. There may be issues with septic systems according to Eastern Highlands District.

4. **Approve minutes of: Regular Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2017 and Special Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2017:** Irene Schein made a motion to approve the January 5, 2017 regular meeting minutes. Matthew Cunningham seconded the motion. All in favor. No discussion. Irene Schein made a motion to approve January 12, 2017 special meeting minutes. Matthew Cunningham seconded the motion. All in favor. No discussion.
5. **Communications and Reports**
 - A. **Trooper Report – January 2017:** The Board reviewed the report from Trooper Black. He handled a higher percentage of calls last month.
 - B. **Board Members Reports:** Matthew Cunningham reported that the Chaplin Neighborhood News newsletter will be released quarterly. Articles for the next publication are due February 28th and the newsletter will be published on March 23rd.
 - C. **Board of Finance Discussion:** Dick Weingart reported that the Board of Finance is currently in the budget process; deadline end of next week for budgets. The next Regular BOF meeting is 2/6 and they hope to have calendar set. Budget presentations for Town agencies 2nd Monday in March and the following Monday Board of Education presentation. Board of Selectmen need to decide when they will do theirs. Gay St. Louis, Tax Collector, will give report on collections through January. The grand list has a 16% increase due to Eversource assessment and the Algonquin plant; still some DMV issues getting accurate lists. Matthew Cunningham stated the Board of Assessment Appeals is working in this issue. He also reported that CIP meetings are being scheduled and that the Governor's address is Wednesday on the state budget. The Board of Selectmen discussed details of the budget and will see how it may affect the Town.

D. Correspondence: None

E. Building/Infrastructure: Matthew Cunningham reported that the engineers ok'd the buildings to hold the solar panels. We are currently waiting on financing from Green bank.

F. Discussion regarding Recreation Commission: Matthew Cunningham reported that Windham did not enter into an agreement to have their Recreation Director work in Chaplin, therefore, we will advertise to hire a director for the Town again.

6. New Business

A. Tax Collector Refunds: Matthew Cunningham made a motion to approve a refund of \$2069.71 to Federal National Mortgage Association c/o Lereta Tax Service, Irene Schein seconded the motion. All in favor.

Matthew Cunningham made a motion to approve a refund of \$12.62 to James W. Lanham, Irene Schein seconded the motion. All in favor.

B. Resignations/Appointments: Matthew Cunningham made a motion to re-appoint Chris Komuves as a regular member of the Conservation Commission for term 7/1/2015 to 6/30/21. Irene Schein seconded the motion. All in favor.

C. Discussion regarding Town of Chaplin Economic and Community Development Commission. Irene Schein reported that she was able to get a few volunteers for the new commission. Irene Schein made a motion to appoint the following members to the Economic & Community Development Commission. Matthew Cunningham seconded the motion. All in favor.

NAME	MEMBER	TERM
Irene Schein	Regular Member	2/2/17 to 2/1/18
Virginia Siege	Regular Member	2/2/17 to 2/1/18
Darcy Richard	Regular Member	2/2/17 to 2/1/19
Paul Siege	Regular Member	2/2/17 to 2/1/19
Ann Chuk	Regular Member	2/2/17 to 2/1/20
Leslie Ricklin	Regular Member	2/2/17 to 2/1/20
William Rose IV	Alternate Member	2/2/17 to 2/1/20
Margaret McKleroy	Alternate Member	2/2/17 to 2/1/19

7. Old Business

A. STEAP Grant (North Bear Hill Bridge) Matthew Cunningham reported that after meeting with the engineers from W.M.C. we will have enough funds to cover our share of 20% for the grant match and also probably have extra. He is also working with Dick Weingart to have \$202,000 in funds allocated to the N. Bear Hill drainage project at Town Meeting. Good news is NECCOG (Northeastern Council of Governments) offers engineering services. We pay a yearly fee of approximately \$5200 to NECCOG and to engineer the project would be around \$30,000. By using NECCOG it saves the Town a significant amount of money. They can also assist DPW crew with the MS4 drainage project.

B. Discussion regarding handicapped access at the Senior Center. Matthew Cunningham stated that funds for this project will come out of CIP.

- C. Discussion regarding use of Community Center:** Matthew Cunningham reported that Steve Laume prepped the stage, DPW crew will take out heaters and do more prep work. They are looking at cages for the bulbs. This project may need more volunteers.
- D. Status of Chaplin Museum and William Ross Library re-location:** Matthew Cunningham reported that he is waiting on better weather to bring out the company to look at moving the building and the costs, etc. Irene Schein stated that abutting neighbor, Ann Chuk, offered an easement to the Town which could accommodate an area for the septic and/or well. Matthew Cunningham will reach out to Ms. Chuk to get more information, if this happens the building can stay and the Town can use it once again.
- E. Status of Dissolution Study and Add/Withdraw Grades Study:** Matthew Cunningham reported that they have been meeting and that the committee will have a year to do the work, even though they started late due to State delays. The Board discussed the decline in enrollment for the elementary school.
- F. Discuss tentative plans to celebrate Chaplin Bicentennial in 2022:** No update.
- G. Discuss All Pending and New FOI Requests:** None
- H. Human Resources Updates/Changes:** Matthew Cunningham made a motion to approve the Library Director job description. Irene Schein seconded the motion. All in Favor. Matthew Cunningham also reported that the Library Board sub-committee has narrowed the position down to 4 candidates. Once the interviews are complete then the Board of Selectmen will review and possibly do a second interview. The last interview is scheduled for the 2/10/17 and soon afterwards they should have a new hire.
- I. Discussion regarding the Department of Public Works:** Matthew Cunningham reported that the crew has been busy plowing, patching roads, and fixing drainage issues. The Board discussed having more lines painted on the roads. We are a part of the Horizontal Curve project from the State which puts lines in on roads that meet the criteria.
- J. Discussion regarding Public Safety and Resident Trooper Program:** Matthew Cunningham met new Lieutenant from Troop D. There is some concern that due to the closing of a couple of bars in Willimantic that the Bach Dor on Route 6 will be frequented more. Matthew Cunningham will be sure more patrols take place in this area. Also, there have been complaints that someone in Town is creating a noise nuisance with canon-like sounds. Trooper Black is also looking into this.
- K. Discussion on Energize CT Grant:** Matthew Cunningham reported that we currently have \$5000 from the grant and he is talking to someone about qualifying for the silver level to get more funds.
- L. Discussion regarding leasing space in the Old Post Office Building:** The Board discussed that it would be best to rent this space.
- M. Conservation Commission – Review status of commission and ordinance.** Matthew Cunningham met with Chris Komuves and it was stated that the Conservation Commission is lacking business. The Board suggested they should be inventorying what is in Town, organize clean-up days and still continue to meet at least quarterly.

N. Discussion and possible action on an ordinance prohibiting the storage, disposal, or use of waste from oil and gas exploration or extraction activities or any derivative thereof, in the Town of Chaplin, CT: Irene Schein made a motion to approve the ordinance that Attorney Dennis O'Brien drafted for Town meeting. Matthew Cunningham seconded the motion. All in favor to send to Town meeting for vote.

O. Discussion on "Columbus Day" name change to "Indigenous Peoples' Day": The Board agreed to change the name from Columbus Day to "Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day".

8. Other Business: None

9. Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion: Jim Randall discussed the lights in the Community room and what the plan is. The Board stated cages are to be put in place to protect them for sports activities in the room. Dick Weingart asked if the Board of Selectmen needs to go to the Historic District for approval to install solar panels on the Senior Center/Library due to the fact it resides in the historic district. Matthew Cunningham stated that municipal buildings are exempt but he will also bring to the Historic District Commission.

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

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.

11. Date, time, and place of next meeting (March 2, 2017 @ 7:00pm @ the Town Hall)

12. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm