

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Chaplin, Connecticut
Thursday, April 6, 2017
MINUTES**

Members Present: Matthew Cunningham, First Selectman; William H. Rose IV, Selectman; Irene Schein, Selectman.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dick Weingart, Chairman Board of Finance; Suzanne Gluck, Administrative Assistant/Recording Clerk

1. **Call to Order:** Matthew Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.
2. **Additions to Agenda:** None
3. **First Audience of Citizens:** None
4. **Approve minutes of: Regular Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2017; Special Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2017; Special Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2017; Special Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2017:** Irene Schein made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of 2/2/17, William Rose seconded the motion. All in favor. Irene Schein made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of 2/27/17, William Rose seconded the motion. All in favor. Irene Schein made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of 3/8/17, William Rose seconded the motion. All in favor. Irene Schein made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of 3/21/17, Matthew Cunningham seconded the motion. All in favor.
5. **Communications and Reports**
 - A. **Trooper Report – February and March 2017:** The Board reviewed the report and noted calls have increased. Trooper Black is still handling over 50% of the calls.
 - B. **Board Members Reports:** Matthew Cunningham reported that the Mansfield/Chaplin Border survey is complete. Assessors from both towns met and made adjustments to the tax bills. He also stated that the GPS border analysis was about 5' closer on the Ashford/Chaplin line than originally reported. Also, per State statute if any Town border passes through a residence then the homeowner can decide which district their children can attend.

Matthew Cunningham also reported that the mowing bids went out to the public. The bid opening is on 5/4/17 at 3pm to be discussed at the Board of Selectmen meeting that evening. If the CIP budget is approved, then we can move ahead with the DPW crew to mow the other facilities not included on the bids.

William Rose asked about the stop sign at Cross Road and S. Bear Hill Road – the road needs to be fixed still. Matthew Cunningham stated he already discussed with DPW to do the repair. William Rose also asked about the status of the home invasion in Town. Matthew Cunningham said it was still being investigated from the major crimes division and Trooper Black continues to work on leads. The Board discussed the cost of security systems and their features.

- C. **Board of Finance Discussion:** Dick Weingart reported on the budget and that there is a public hearing scheduled for Monday. It was suggested by the Board of Finance to put in expense for Trooper in line with the Governor's budget at 100% instead of the 85% currently in.

Also discussed were the Teacher's pension costs in the Governor's budget and the effect on the Town.

Matthew Cunningham stated that the unassigned fund balance is too high. The State uses this as a guide to what the Towns can absorb. Dick Weingart discussed the mill rate for automobiles capped at 32 mills, grand list is 16% but considering the potential ESC loss, teacher retirement costs and school budget increase of 3.94% they will need to discuss further the unassigned fund balance with the Board of Finance.

The selectmen discussed the Algonquin pipeline and what the depreciation is set at and the new stations coming in. Matthew Cunningham discussed the State project for passenger railroad service and a potential northern route through Mansfield/Chaplin to cater to UCONN travelers. Dick Weingart also stated that shared services may be discussed at the public hearing.

D. Correspondence: None

E. Building/Infrastructure: Matthew Cunningham reported that the bulk of the stage at the community center has been removed and the DPW crew will get the floor ready for the tile contractor. Irene Schein asked that the section on the floor be fixed where there is a sharp point and someone could fall. He also stated that the DPW crew will start sweeping the roads.

F. Discussion regarding Recreation Commission: Matthew Cunningham reported that the Recreation Director vacancy has been advertised.

6. New Business

A. Tax Collector Refunds: Irene Schein made a motion to approve a tax refund to VW Credit Leasing LTD for \$677.87, Matthew Cunningham seconded the motion. All in favor. Irene Schein made a motion to approve a tax refund to Nissan Infiniti LT for \$359.62, Matthew Cunningham seconded the motion. All in favor. Irene Schein made a motion to approve a tax refund to Robert J Rose for \$198.72, Matthew Cunningham seconded the motion. All in favor.

B. Resignations/Appointments: Matthew Cunningham read the resignation from Sandra Horning from the Library Board of Trustees and as substitute librarian. Ms. Horning accepted the position of Library Director.

C. Discuss Annual Town meeting scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2017: The Board reviewed the draft legal notice for Town meeting. Discussion included the Trooper contract and how the Town would vote to keep the program or not. Regarding the Treasurer and Town Clerk elected positions – there is not enough time to have the agenda item for changing the Treasurer position to appointed due to the reporting of the ballots to the State is due now. After more discussion, it was decided to keep the Town Clerk as an elected position. Matthew Cunningham also discussed Planning and Zoning ordinance repeals on the agenda.

D. Acceptance of conservation easement from planning & zoning: Matthew Cunningham reviewed the easement proposal from Planning and Zoning Commission for Walter Landon – 3 lot subdivision on South Bear Hill Road. The Board reviewed the maps and documentation. Irene Schein made a motion to approve the conservation easement from Planning & Zoning Commission for Walter Landon – 3 lot subdivision on South Bear Hill Road. Matthew Cunningham seconded the motion. All in favor.

7. Old Business

- A. STEAP Grant (North Bear Hill Bridge):** Matthew Cunningham reported that a pre-construction meeting was held yesterday, more questions after they left than answers. CL&P will move overhead lines as much as required which the State pays for. This project is fully funded and moving forward, contract will be signed on Monday once Mattern Construction gets bonding.
- B. Discussion regarding handicapped access at the Senior Center:** Matthew Cunningham let the Board know funding will come from the Town Clerk recording fees that is set aside in the event a project like this comes up – there is approximately \$14,000 in the account which will cover the cost of the access estimated to be around \$5000-\$6000.
- C. Discussion regarding use of Community Center:** The Recreation Commission will oversee the community center. They will also pay the propane bill (which is currently the case). As stated earlier the DPW crew will prep the floor for the tile contractor.
- D. Status of Chaplin Museum and William Ross Library re-location:** Matthew Cunningham will schedule the moving company to come out and give a quote on moving both buildings. An abutting neighbor had offered an easement to accommodate the septic and/or parking with a condition it would be given to a new buyer of the property, not the Town. Matthew Cunningham stated that the Town cannot sell property and promise an easement to the new owner after the fact. William Rose suggested selling the property to this abutting neighbor and she can then sell the property with the easement.
- E. Status of Dissolution Study and Add/Withdraw Grades Study:** Matthew Cunningham reported that there has been no progress with the Dissolution Study committee and the Selectmen from the three towns are in the process of scheduling a meeting with the Chair of the State Board of Education to discuss their concerns and get some more oversight from the State BOE. Irene Schein suggested the three towns just go to vote to see what the people want. William Rose said that in the end it is the BOE that makes the decision.
- F. Discuss tentative plans to celebrate Chaplin Bicentennial in 2022:** Matthew Cunningham is still working with the Director of the Senior Center, Roxanne St. Jean, to record information from the patrons.
- G. Discuss All Pending and New FOI Requests:** None
- H. Human Resources Updates/Changes:** None
- I. Discussion regarding the Department of Public Works:** Matthew Cunningham stated that one the DPW Supervisor's recommendation, Tad Stimson, was hired to fill the vacant position. Tad is doing an excellent job and the 4th position is still being worked out.
- J. Discussion regarding Public Safety and Resident Trooper Program:** Matthew Cunningham suggested that if the Town terminates the Trooper program we should still maintain the office and let Troop D use it as a stop over to write reports and other administrative tasks. This will help in keeping their presence in Town. They can maintain internet in the office but will cancel the cable.
- K. Discussion on Energize CT Grant:** Matthew Cunningham met with a representative from Eversource and explained to the Board how the points work and the Town could have potentially \$10,000 -\$15,000 towards another project. We are currently a bronze community and can go to silver if we do more outreach to the community using Google groups and/or website which can bring us up to \$10,000. Grants can also be stacked. Once the funds are received we would have to go to Town meeting to request the funds be placed into CIP.
- L. Discussion regarding leasing space in the Old Post Office Building:** No update
- M. Conservation Commission – Review status of commission and ordinance:** Matthew Cunningham met with Juan Sanchez, Chairman of the Conservation Commission and member Chris Komuves and they are both interested in expanding the commission. Town Attorney

N. Dennis O'Brien is looking into the history to see if at one time Inland Wetlands Commission and Conservation Commission were one but split due to requesting grant funds.

8. Other Business: Irene Schein asked when the Dianna's pool picture at Town Hall is going to be replaced; maybe send email out via Google groups to residents asking for new photos/pictures.

9. Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion: Dick Weingart expressed concerns with putting the Trooper program on the agenda for the Annual Town meeting. This should be separate and residents just don't understand what the program has to offer, have someone come in and do a presentation so they can be more informed to vote. The Board of Selectmen can have a Public Hearing with the presentation then bring a vote to referendum. William Rose agreed and asked if we should look into sharing services with another town. Matthew Cunningham will look into it.

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.
Discuss Annual Town meeting scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2017.

11. Date, time, and place of next meeting (May 4, 2017 @ 7:00pm @ the Town Hall)

12. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.