

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Chaplin, Connecticut
Thursday, August 3, 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; Helen Weingart, Planning & Zoning Commission member/Resident; Michael Maggs, Resident.

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.
2. **Additions to Agenda:** None
3. **First Audience of Citizens:** None
4. **Approve minutes of:** Irene Schein made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2017, William Rose seconded the motion. All in favor.
5. **Communications and Reports**
 - A. **Trooper Report – June 2017 & July 2017:** The Board reviewed the statistics, numbers are consistent. The police are investigating both Chaplin and Hampton burglaries and seeing if there is a connection. The Hampton suspect is still not found.
 - B. **Board Members Reports:** Matthew Cunningham reported on the status of the Governor's budget. State aid will be diverted from 163 towns and given to the remaining 6. Chaplin will lose approximately 50% of State aid which equals to approximately two million dollars for ECS and Statutory Aid. It doesn't take into account the municipal sharing funds we were to start receiving this year, but we received a letter from the State's Office of Policy Management stating there is no money in that account. The bulk of this money was to offset motor vehicle cap. Currently no State budget and they are working off of Governor Malloy's executive orders.

Irene Schein reported that the Chaplin Community and Economic Development Commission now has an ad-hoc committee overseeing the Mayday Festival next year – there will be dancing, music, maypole, etc. The CCEDC committee continues to look into hop growing and plan to visit the agriculture station in South Windsor. They are also working on elderly housing options in Chaplin.

Matthew Cunningham also reported that the Veteran's Base Camp is holding their first annual charity motorcycle run on 9/17 at 9am. They will have bands, food, vendors at the park. The charity is to raise money for the camp and tickets will be sold on their website.

- C. **Board of Finance Discussion:** Dick Weingart reported that the Board of Finance will be meeting on 8/14 to discuss a contingency plan due to the budget issues. They received the engagement letter and worklist from the auditors – information needs to be collected by 9/18 and tentative onsite visit for 10/2. They also received a letter from Superintendent Ken Henrici regarding the commencement of union negotiations for RD11 administrators on 8/22 – BOF and BOS can be at the meeting to make any arguments at the negotiations. The Board of Finance would also like to work on Board policies this summer. He did speak to Ken Henrici about the Board of Education deficit and hoping the number is less than the \$184,000 estimate; appropriation of funds should be added to the Fall Town meeting.

- D. Correspondence:** Matthew Cunningham reported that he received a letter from Algonquin Gas and that they are withdrawing their application for the next phase due to permitting issues in MA & RI. Until this is resolved they are pulling plug on second phase and not doing the third turbine; this will affect our grand list.

Matthew Cunningham read a letter from Helen Weingart regarding the neglected flower beds at the Library. He and the Library Director, Sandra Horning, met and they agreed the beds are in need of replacement. Part of the issue was the subpar materials used and plant crowding made it difficult for the DPW to maintain the weeds. Once this is done then the DPW staff can easily maintain. Helen Weingart had concerns how DPW will be able to keep up with this task. Matthew Cunningham stated that the funds to redo the beds will come out of the buildings, grounds and maintenance budget and that this is the charge of the Board of Selectmen.

E. Building/Infrastructure:

Matthew Cunningham reported that the solar project should begin in the next 30 days. Also, the Town would like to switch to AmeriGas who has the State contract at \$2.09 per gallon for propane, we currently pay around \$2.59. He will call other companies to see if they can match the price. He also reported that all Town buildings will be re-keyed except for the school. Key system will have serial numbers on keys assigned to staff.

- F. Discussion regarding Recreation Commission:** Matthew Cunningham reported that the first concert at the park will be 8/5 at 5pm, Tuesday Saints playing. The Rec Commission is planning the Labor Day festival for that Friday into Saturday and will plan the bed race again which was a lot of fun.

6. New Business

- A. Tax Collector Refunds:** None
- B. Resignations/Appointments:** Irene Schein made a motion to appoint Michael Maggs as an alternate for the Chaplin Economic and Development Commission with a term of 2/2/2017 to 2/1/2019, William Rose seconded the motion. All in favor.

7. Old Business

- A. STEAP Grant (North Bear Hill Bridge):** The bridge is out and contractors will be drilling new shafts, project is on schedule. The contractors said they have been having issues with people driving down the road right to the bridge location, they need people to stop at the barricades and not go into the construction area.
- B. Discussion regarding handicapped access at the Senior Center:** Matthew Cunningham reported Professional Lock proposal signed, parts ordered, next week or two work begins when they re-key the building.
- C. Discussion regarding use of Community Center:** Matthew Cunningham reported that tile is ordered, some flooring work left which tile contractor will complete. Currently looking for painting quotes, it's a big job so looking for commercial painters.
- D. Status of Chaplin Museum and William Ross Library re-location:** Matthew Cunningham stated that the museum will be repainted in the next couple of weeks.
- E. Status of Dissolution Study and Add/Withdraw Grades Study:** Matthew Cunningham stated a report is due by the Committee on 8/22/17. The Dissolution Committee still has 4-5 months to complete their study. If reports are not submitted on time and bullet points not met by state statute, then no referendum has to be held at the discretion of the Boards of Selectmen. Letters were received by neighboring districts asked if they would take our students, all said yes – Woodstock, Mansfield, E.O. Smith.

The tuition for E.O. Smith is around \$12,500; Brooklyn, Pomfret and Eastford will all take middle school children. The Board of Selectmen discussed Scotland and their financial issues, what if they go bankrupt? Chaplin and Hampton would have to foot the bill.

- F. Discuss tentative plans to celebrate Chaplin Bicentennial in 2022:** No update
- G. Discuss All Pending and New FOI Requests:** June 6, 2017 the Town received a request via email from American Transparency for a list of all employees to include name, hire date, base salary, bonus amount, overtime amount, gross annual wages, position/title. June 7, 2017 Sue Gluck responded via email with Attorney O'Brien's response stating that no single record with this specific data exists.
- H. Human Resources Updates/Changes:** None
- I. Discussion regarding the Department of Public Works:** Matthew Cunningham reported that the last couple of months he received some requests from union employees. They have some reservations about the current union contract:
- Two employees want to be moved up to Operator 1 Class pay scale. At this time the classes are not defined, both employees are still on probation.
 - Request clothing/meal reimbursements be changed to entitlements. This would be given whether meals taken or not and clothing money directly to the employee.
 - Reinstate mechanics rate
 - Change to weekly pay instead of bi-weekly

The Board of Selectmen agreed the contract should be followed until negotiations again. Negotiations can be re-opened or re-negotiated when it expires in 2018. The BOS discussed probationary periods, and when evaluations should be done. Matthew Cunningham stated the DPW Supervisor will do the evaluations and discuss with the First Selectman.

- J. Discussion regarding Public Safety and Resident Trooper Program:** There have been complaints about the road work on Route 6 (State road) because no temporary lines have been drawn. William Rose asked about the new stop sign on England Road and requested that all new signs be approved by the BOS. Matthew Cunningham stated the next sign to be put up is Morey Road and he will put on next months' agenda.
- K. Discussion on Energize CT Grant:** Reported by Matthew Cunningham, residents will receive a mailer soon. An Energy audit will be available for approximately \$100 they will make recommendations on energy savings for resident's homes.
- L. Discussion regarding leasing space in the Old Post Office Building:** No update
- M. Conservation Commission – Review status of commission and ordinance:** No update but Matthew Cunningham feels it should be combined with Inland/Wetlands Commission; conservation is advisory and wetlands is regulatory. He will add to the next Town meeting agenda and have Attorney Dennis O'Brien write up a new ordinance.

8. Other Business: None

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

10. Agenda Suggestions for next meetingCommunications 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.

Discussion regarding the Chaplin Community and Economic Development Commission

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

- 12. Adjourn:** Irene Schein made a motion to adjourn at 8:14pm; Matthew Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion passed.