

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
Chaplin, Connecticut  
Thursday, September 7, 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; Joe Pinto, Chief Volunteer Fire Department; Chris Bray, Assistant Chief Volunteer Fire Department; Jim Randall, Director of Emergency Management Services; Suzanne Gluck, Administrative Assistant/Recording Clerk.

**1. Call to Order:** Matthew Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**2. Additions to Agenda:** None

**3. First Audience of Citizens:**

Joe Pinto stated that he had concerns with the change in insurance companies from the VFSI policy to CIRMA. He was never informed of this change and that the communication with the First Selectman is unacceptable. The policies were supposed to be given to him in July and he never received them to review. Matthew Cunningham stated the insurance coverage is an administrative function of the Town and that CIRMA has more than enough coverage with significant savings, approximately \$5000 for the Volunteer Fire Department. Discussion continued regarding what the new policy covers and Joe Pinto's concerns for the Volunteers and potential lack of coverage. Matthew Cunningham will send the electronic copies to him to review and can meet with him to discuss in detail. Joe Pinto stated that most FD's use VFSI and if it is a better policy then they are willing to sacrifice gear in order to help pay the premiums. William Rose reassured him that CIRMA has always processed claims immediately and were excellent to work with.

Jim Randall asked the Board if a second sign for the Chewink cemetery can be installed. Matthew Cunningham stated that the two sections are both Chewink and there is no need to spend the additional funds to put up another sign, one is sufficient.

**4. Approve minutes of:** Irene Schein made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2017. William Rose seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**5. Communications and Reports**

**A. Trooper Report – August 2017:** The Board reviewed the monthly statistics. There is an increase in motor vehicle violations partly due to the fact that Matthew Cunningham requested Trooper Black monitor more now that school is back in session. William Rose mentioned that Palmer Road is a race track and cars fly down the road near the school, also suggested the speed trailer be put there.

**B. Board Members Reports:** Matthew Cunningham received some inquiries from some Board of Finance members and others regarding the COST membership status; it was dropped during budget discussions and now they want it reinstated. The Board members including Dick Weingart discussed the pros and cons of COST and CCM services and how they benefit the Town. Matthew Cunningham will get a comparison list together to be discussed at the next Board meeting to determine which is the better fit.

- C. Board of Finance Discussion:** Dick Weingart reported that Valerie Garrison, Finance Manager, has been working hard on preparing for the auditor's visit. They are scheduled to come to Chaplin for field work the second week of October. Also, at Central Office she discovered a different budget number, approximately \$20,000-30,000 for Chaplin Elementary School. He spoke with Superintendent Ken Henrici regarding this additional deficit and that this will need to be brought to Town meeting for an appropriation. Dick Weingart also updated the board regarding the meetings for shared services with Chaplin Elementary – next meeting is scheduled for 9/12. They will talk about the deficit more and continue discussions about sharing services for snowplowing, outplacement students, etc. Dick Weingart also reported on the Governor's most recent executive orders and to date we are looking at approximately \$500,000 in a loss of State aid, significant but won't cripple the Town. William Rose stated it still equates to about a 2 mill increase. The Board of Finance will be discussing on Monday the car tax mill rate whether it should be 32 or 35.05 (current mill rate).
- D. Correspondence:** Matthew Cunningham read a letter from Algonquin Gas notifying the Town that testing will take place on 9/11 and 9/25 to open valves – residents may smell an order and experience loud noises but there is no danger in this testing.
- E. Building/Infrastructure:** Matthew Cunningham informed the Board that the solar panel installation on the Firehouse, Senior Center/Library buildings will begin next week. We will pay a flat rate for electric, could increase but maximum is 3%. No upfront costs or maintenance fees – Green Bank owns the panels. We are also switching from Osterman propane to AmeriGas. AmeriGas has the current State contract and they are .50 lower than Osterman. We are locked in with AmeriGas for 18 months and have to own the tanks but at the end of the day will save approximately \$7000.
- F. Discussion regarding Recreation Commission:** The Veteran's Base camp is having a motorcycle benefit ride on 9/17 from 3pm-dark – there will be bands and food.
- G. Discussion regarding the Chaplin Community and Economic Development Commission:** Irene Schein reported to the Board that Peg Mckleroy has resigned from the commission. She discussed the Maypole festival planned for next Spring on 5/19 from noon until 5pm. She met with Tori Northrop to design logo for t-shirts and will work with Angie Jacque for advertising. They may also have a silent auction. The commission may need some funds from the Town and will also look into what permits are needed and would like to work with the Recreation Commission. Discussed a possible wine tasting. Matthew Cunningham suggested the Trooper be present. Irene Schein also stated that there is a seminar for Chamber event and the committee is still working on gathering information on hops and micro-breweries.

## 6. New Business

- A. Tax Collector Refunds:** None
- B. Resignations/Appointments:** Warren Church resigned from the Historic District Commission in order to fix the incorrect term for the membership on record. Irene Schein made a motion to appoint Warren Church as a regular member to the Historic District Commission for a correct term of 9/1/17 to 8/31/2022
- C. Discussion regarding new stop sign installations in Chaplin.** The Board reviewed the list of new stop sign installations on the following roads:
- England Rd at Old State Rd
  - Marcy Rd at Natchaug St
  - Marcy Rd at Singleton Rd
  - Natchaug St at Marcy Rd

William Rose made a motion to install stop signs for England Rd at Old State Rd; Marcy Rd at Natchaug St; Marcy Rd at Singleton Rd; and Natchaug St at Marcy Rd. Irene Schein seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

**7. Old Business**

- A. STEAP Grant (North Bear Hill Bridge):** Matthew Cunningham reported that all piles were driven; they had a one week delay because driver was broken. The crews will now work on the sub structure. They had a de-watering issue and anticipate it getting worse, the coffer dams caused an issue in the field. Currently the project is on schedule and estimate completion time this coming June 2018.
- B. Discussion regarding handicapped access at the Senior Center:** Matthew Cunningham reported that the part for the new door was on back order and should be in next week and work will start right away.
- C. Discussion regarding use of Community Center:** The tile contractor had been ill so there was a delay with this project but anticipates starting next week. Senior Center Director, Roxanne St. Jean, had concerns with a lip on the floor and tripping but it doesn't seem to be an issue with Pickle Ball starting.
- D. Status of Chaplin Museum and William Ross Library re-location:** Matthew Cunningham stated he was approached by a few individuals who live on Chaplin street to buy the Ross library. He will have an appraiser on historic structures come out in the next 2 weeks to get the worth of the building and come back to the Board to discuss. He also reported that the museum is getting painted. Not sure about moving museum due to state budget. William Rose suggested it be discussed at the next Town meeting to get feedback from public. The Board also discussed grants regarding the move.
- E. Status of Dissolution Study and Add/Withdraw Grades Study:** Matthew Cunningham stated that the Add/withdraw final report is done. There was some confusion as to who sets referendum/public hearing dates, the attorneys agreed it is not the Board of Selectmen. Issues were addressed in report by statute but not really laid out, i.e. staff reduction, closing of schools, etc. The basis is to regionalize pre-k through 12. William Rose stated that the MacBroom study had same recommendation but they addressed these details. The Board discussed the regionalization and how it would work for the elementary schools. The Dissolution Study Committee continues to meet, deadline in December. The outcome of add/withdraw vote may affect dissolution decision.
- F. Discuss tentative plans to celebrate Chaplin Bicentennial in 2022:** The Board agreed the Economic Development Commission and Recreation Commission should be involved in the celebration.
- 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 he met with Dave Stone, DPW Supervisor, and he feels they can handle redoing the landscaping at the Library. They can rip it out, dig down and get better materials in to match the Senior Center. He is sketching out a plan for materials and time, we should still get other quotes though.
- J. Discussion regarding Public Safety and Resident Trooper Program:** The Board discussed the program and how it affects the Town budget, especially with all the cutbacks from the State. The previous survey from the residents showed the majority want to keep the program.
- K. Discussion on Energize CT Grant:** Matthew Cunningham discussed the energy saving program offered to the residents – for \$100 they will get a report on how to save energy, approximately \$100 worth of light bulbs and other energy saving materials, i.e. smoke alarms, spray foam, etc. This program gives us more points for our grant.
- L. Discussion regarding leasing space in the Old Post Office Building:** The work on this building is a rainy-day project for the DPW crew.
- M. Conservation Commission – Review status of commission and ordinance –** No changes but ordinance will need to go to Town meeting.

**8. Other Business:** None

**9. Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion.** Jim Randall asked the Board if they can have a paint/chemicals disposal day. He also suggested getting a magnet to pick up all the nails on the ground at the Transfer Station.

**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  
Discussion and possible action on agenda for a special Town Meeting.

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 COST membership

**11. Date, time, and place of next meeting (October 5, 2017 @ 7:00pm @ the Town Hall)**

**12. Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm

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