

**TOWN OF CHAPLIN**  
**MINUTES OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**  
**JULY 9, 2024**

Approximately 25 electors and those authorized to vote at Town Meeting assembled at the Special Town Budget Meeting on July 9, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. at the Chaplin Senior Center, 132 Chaplin Street, Chaplin, Connecticut. Also present were Selectman Juan Roman, III, Board of Finance members, Chairman Richard Weingart, Linkesh Diwan, Peter Haines, Jerimiah Rufini and Victor Boomer and Chaplin Elementary School Principal Kevin Sanchez. The following business was transacted:

The Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M., read the call and opened the floor for nominations to elect a Moderator. Selectman Roman/Ann Chuk moved/seconded to nominate Irene Schein. Hearing no further nomination, Irene Schein was declared Moderator and read each item on the call as it arose.

2) \*To receive and approve the Annual Town Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$9,903,086 as submitted by the Board of Finance and to appropriate the funds required; (contingent on asterisk \*).

\*At their meeting held on June 26, 2024, the Board of Selectmen voted, pursuant to CGS § 7-7, that item #2 of the Call of the Annual Town Meeting be submitted to a referendum vote at an Adjourned Town Meeting to be held on July 17, 2024 at the Chaplin Firehouse, 106 Phoenixville Road (Rte. 198) in said Chaplin from 12:00 Noon to 8:00 P.M. The question on the ballot label at said referendum shall read as follows:

“Shall the Town of Chaplin appropriate the sum of \$9,903,086 for the General Government and local Education Expenditures for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 as recommended by the Board of Finance?”

Voters approving said question will vote “Yes” and those opposing said question will vote “No”.

Absentee ballots for the July 17, 2024 referendum shall be available as provided by law to persons applying to the office of the Town Clerk during its regular business hours. Copies of the proposed Annual Town Budget are available for inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Dated at Chaplin, Connecticut, this 26th day of June 2024.

/s/ Juan Roman III, First Selectman

Anthony Pinto, Selectman

CHAPLIN BOARD OF SELECTMAN

The first budget referendum, held on May 21 did not pass.

Board of Finance Chairman Weingart gave and overview of the revised budget stating that this revised budget of \$9,903,086 approximately 6% less than the first budget presented which was \$10,225,229. This budget is an increase of 2.63% whereas the previous budget was a 6.27% increase. The current mil rate is 31.45 mils, and the estimated mil rate is 29.95 mils. If this budget passes at referendum on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the BOF will meet to set the new mil rate on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Cuts were made in General Government Expenditures in the amount of \$134,761, Capital Improvement - \$14,922., Chaplin Elementary – \$42,000. Regional School District 11 cut their

budget at a second referendum by \$62,000. Also, on June 20<sup>th</sup>, the Town voted to discontinue the Resident State Trooper Program so the budget was reduced by \$165,527. Since the time that the first budget referendum failed, there has been an increase in the costs of employee health insurance and there have been new insurance enrollments as well. He stated that the budget has been cut, taxes have been reduced and the budget is more balanced.

Resident Ann Chuk asked about special education costs from the Chaplin Elementary School. She thought it was said at the last meeting that the costs were going down but this budget does not seem to reflect that. Principal Chevez stated that overall, the cost is going down because more students are receiving services in the school and are not required to be outplaced.

Resident Leslie Ricklin asked what the expected reduction in taxes will be. BOF member Rufini answered the increase will be about 20%. She also asked what is to be done if residents are unable to pay their taxes because of the increases? Chairman Weingart spoke about our Revenue Collection Office being able to help residents with a payment plan and that there has been recent increase in efforts to collect past due taxes.

Resident Warren Church asked who sets the guidelines if people cannot pay their taxes. Chairman Weingart said it is not regulated by the Windham collection office or by the town of Chaplin, it is regulated by state statutes.

3. To appropriate and transfer the amount of \$112,674 from the FY 2024-25 General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the CIP Fund. 4. To adjourn the meeting after completion of the foregoing business.

The Moderator called for a motion to approve the transfer. Selectman Roman/Leslie Ricklin moved/seconded. The Moderator called for a vote. 18 yes, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions. The vote to approve the transfers passed.

The Moderator called for a motion to adjourn. Selectman Roman/Linkesh Diwan moved/seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Shari Smith, Chaplin Town Clerk