

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
Chaplin, Connecticut  
Thursday, August 1, 2024**

Members Present: Juan Roman, First Selectman; Anthony Pinto, Selectman; Kenneth Fortier, Selectman

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Susan Welshman, Recording Secretary; Dick Weingart, Board of Finance Chair; Diana Alvarez, Treasurer, Irene Schein, Leslie Ricklin.

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm
2. **First Audience of Citizens:** Irene Schein asked if all homes were assessed in the recent Property Reval or if only some were. Diana Alvarez responded that every house in town was re-assessed but not every home was assessed from the inside. I Schein also asked if there is a solution to the school situation in regard to the budget. She stated that there is a 7:1 ratio of students to teachers at the Chaplin Elementary School and feels that regionalization of the elementary schools may be needed. J Roman responded that forming a study or ad hoc committee to explore this option for next year is a reasonable request.
3. **Additions to the Agenda:** None.
4. **Approve the Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting on June 6, 2024 and the Board of Selectmen Special Meetings on June 26, 2024 and July 22, 2024.** *K Fortier made a MOTION to approve the Minutes of the June 6, 2024 Regular Meeting. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION Carried. J Roman made a MOTION to approve the Minutes of the June 26 2024 Special Meeting. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. J Pinto abstained. All in favor, MOTION Carried. J Pinto made a MOTION to approve the Minutes of the July 22, 2024 Special Meeting. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.*
5. **Communications and Reports**
  - A. Trooper Report – J Roman read the report for the month of July submitted by Troop D. *See attached.*
  - B. Board Members Reports: None
  - C. Board of Finance Discussion: D Weingart reported that Request Memos and Templates for the 2023-2024 Annual Report will go out to all departments on Monday, August 5, 2024 with a due date of October 31, 2024. The BOF is arranging a Zoom Meeting with the auditors to kick off this year's audit. The BOF held a Special Meeting on July 29, 2024 where a previous MOTION to present the previously revised budget as is was rescinded. A Special Meeting of the BOS has been scheduled for August 5, 2024 to continue working on cuts to the budget. Discussion was had about presenting departments with their further budget reductions and

encouraging these departments to share how the reductions will affect their services. This will allow the BOF to further evaluate where cuts will be made.

- D. Correspondence: J Roman reported that the Town received a letter from the Commissioner of the Connecticut State Police approving the termination of the Resident State Trooper contract effective July 1, 2024.
- E. Building/Infrastructure: None
- F. Treasurer Report: Treasurer Diana Alvarez reported two accounts at Webster Bank are still open while they wait to make sure that tax revenues are deposited into the new Berkshire Bank account. A new scanner from Berkshire Bank was recently received by the Tax Collector.
- G. Department of Public Works Report: None
- H. Chaplin Volunteer Fire Department Report: None

### **New Business**

- A. Tax Collector Refunds: *K Fortier made a MOTION to approve a tax refund to Garcia Ezequiel of \$46.33. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION CARRIED.*
- B. All Pending and New FOI requests: J Roman reported that Town Clerk Shari Smith received an email on 7/10/2024 from FOIA Buddy containing an attachment which, according to the email, contained an FOIA request. The language in the email led Shari to question the safety of the attachment. She consulted with the IT Director who advised her not to click on the attachment given the suspicious language in the email. Shari also consulted with a State FOIA attorney who advised Shari to respond to the email and to request the FOIA to be resubmitted in the body of an email or in a written letter mailed to her. She has received no response.
- C. Appointments and Resignations: J Roman reported the resignation of Victor Boomer from the Library Board of Trustees effective 7/17/2024. *J Pinto made a MOTION to approve the appointment of Diana Alvarez to replace Victor Boomer as a Regular Member of the Library Board of Trustees effective 8/1/2024 for a term beginning 11/5/2019 and ending 11/4/2025. All in favor, MOTION Carried. J Roman reported a courtesy notification that Gavin Horning-Kane was appointed on 6/12/2024 as the Democratic Deputy Registrar of Voters. J Roman made a MOTION to re-appoint Leslie Ricklin to the Historic District Commission for a term beginning 9/1/2024 and ending 8/31/2029. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.*
- D. Discussion and possible action on the renewal of STEAP grant funding  
Opt-In for the Town of Chaplin: J Roman explained to the BOS that the board would need to vote on the Town of Chaplin retaining its designation as a STEAP opt-in town for another four years. *J Pinto made a MOTION to request that the Town of Chaplin retain its*

*designation as a STEAP opt-in Town for another four years. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION Carried.*

- E. Discussion and possible action on raising tire fees at the Transfer Station: J Roman explained that the fees that the Town is charged to remove tires from the transfer station is higher than what the town charges residents. He stated that the town is not looking to make money from the intake of tires but would like to break even. The new fees would be the following: tires up to 19.5" would go from \$3 to \$3.75; 19.5" to 24.5" from \$15. to \$15.75; larger than 24.5" from \$100 to \$159.50. *K Fortier made a MOTION to approve raising the tire fees at the transfer station to equal the cost of having them picked up and discarded. J Roman seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.*
- F. Discussion and possible action the NECCOG Animal Control Contract 2024-2025: A discussion was had expressing concern over the quality and level of service that the Town receives from NECCOG for animal services. The BOS stated that it will be looking into other service providers for next year. *J Roman made a MOTION to approve the 2024-25 contract with NECCOG for Animal Services. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.*

## **6. Old Business**

- A. American Rescue Plan Funds: D Alvarez reported that the ARPA fund balance stands at approximately \$160,000 with a recent expenditure for new carpet at the Library.
- B. Discussion and possible action on Polling Locations: Early voting for the August 13<sup>th</sup> Primary will take place at the Town Hall from August 5<sup>th</sup> until August 11<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Update for the construction of fire pond and dry hydrant: J Roman reported a meeting between Bob Mott, contractor, the DPW and the BOS. Progress was reviewed and the project is moving in the right direction.
- D. Discuss/updates on Bedlam and England Road Bridges: The Bedlam Road Bridge Project remains on hold. Pile driving will begin the week of August 5<sup>th</sup> at the England Road Bridge site.
- E. Town Administrator Update: NECCOG reports that a search for qualified candidates has begun.
- F. Update on IT Services: Athens Micro to begin taking over the Town's systems during the week of August 5<sup>th</sup>.

- 7. Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion:** Irene Schein reiterated that given the 7:1 ratio of students to teachers, she feels it is important for the BOS to support a 0% budget increase for FY 2024-2025. Leslie Ricklin concurred and added that she felt the administration at the Chaplin Elementary School could

be more imaginative with staffing, etc. to achieve a 0% increase. D Weingart added that it would be good for residents to attend Board of Education Meetings to better understand the needs of the elementary school.

- 8. Agenda Suggestions for next meeting:** Discussion of possible ad hoc study committee for the regionalization of elementary schools.
- 9.** Date, time, and place of next meeting (September 5, 2024 at 7:00 PM, Chaplin Town Hall).
- 10. Adjourn:** Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted by,  
Susan Welshman  
Administrative Assistant*