

TOWN OF CHAPLIN
MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 14, 2018

Approximately 45 electors and those authorized to vote at Town Meeting assembled at the Annual Town Budget Meeting on May 14, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. at the Chaplin Senior Center, 132 Chaplin Street, Chaplin, Connecticut and transacted the following business:

Items 5 and 13B will adjourn to referendum vote to be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at the Chaplin Firehouse, 106 Phoenixville Road (Rte. 198) in said Chaplin from 12:00 Noon to 8:00 P.M.

1. Call to order. The Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M., read the call and opened the floor to nominations to elect a moderator for the meeting. Selectman William H. Rose IV / Guy Ricklin moved / seconded to nominate Irene Schein. Hearing no further nomination, Irene Schein was declared moderator. She read each item on the call as it arose.
2. To nominate and elect to the Regional Board of Education of Regional District #11 one member for a full term of three years to commence July 1, 2018; Eugene Boomer / Jaclyn Chancey moved / seconded to nominate Stacy Foster. Hearing no further nominations, Stacy Foster was declared elected to the Regional District # 11 Board of Education.
3. To nominate and elect six members of the Recreation Commission for terms of two years to commence July 1, 2018; Matthew Foster / William Hooper moved / seconded to nominate Tim Barr, Cesar Beltran / Stacey Foster moved / seconded to nominate Matthew Foster, Stacy Foster / Tim Barr moved / seconded to nominate Lauren Foster, Ann Chuk / Linda Caron moved / seconded to nominate Christine Blair. Hearing no other nominations Tim Barr, Mathew Foster, Lauren Foster and Christine Blair were declared elected to the Recreation Commission.
4. Whereas the Town is applying for Local Capital Improvement Grant Funds: therefore, to resolve to approve the CIP plan for FY 2019-2023 (on file with the Town Clerk); Jaclyn Chancey / Helen Weingart moved / seconded a motion to approve the CIP plan. BOF Chairman Weingart gave an overview of the plan including discussion regarding the playscape at Garrison Park, floor replacement at the Senior Center, a new HVAC system at the Town Hall, the purchase of a self-contained breathing apparatus, the purchase of new gear for fire department members, vehicle replacement at the fire department, road maintenance, new cafeteria tables and smoke detectors at the elementary school. The Moderator called for a hand vote of those in favor of approving the CIP plan with the following results: Yes – 43, No – 0, Abstentions - 1. The motion passed.
5. *To receive and approve the Annual Town Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019 in the amount of \$8,407,506 as submitted by the Board of Finance and to appropriate funds required; (contingent on asterisk *);
 - a. BOF Chairman Weingart introduced the members of the Board of Finance, Town Hall employees and members of the Board of Education. He then gave an overview of the budget. He mentioned that the mill rate will be reduced by 1.55 mills from 35.05 to 33.50 for real property, motor vehicle tax and personal property. The budget has a 2.4% increase from the current budget and is a little over 8.4 million dollars. When the FY 17-18 budget was planned it was anticipated to receive State revenue of 400k less than we actually received so there is a 400k surplus this fiscal year resulting in a mill rate reduction. By reducing the mill rate by 1.55% it returns about 270k to the tax payers. Some of the returned funds will go toward the purchase of a new plow truck and to set aside further funds for the North Bear Hill Road drainage project. The funds will also be used to pay off a note that was taken out to rehabilitate the Senior Center.
 - b. Regarding the Chaplin Elementary School budget, the Board of Education recommended a 4.08% increase which the BOF reduced to 3.5%, a reduction of about 20k. Superintendent Henrici spoke about several factors regarding increases to the budget including unanticipated special education tuition and transportation for students attending Chaplin Elementary School and also for tuition, special education costs and transportation for Chaplin students attending magnet schools, contractual

salary increases for certified and uncertified staff and increases to health insurance costs.

- c. The RD 11 budget in this proposed budget failed at referendum so there may be a change to that number. There are plenty of funds in the budget to offset the RD 11 assessment.
- d. The Board of Finance requested \$7,500 for administrative support to the Board of Finance for approximately 6 to 8 hours per week and between \$17 to \$20 per hour.
- e. The cost to the Town for the Resident State Trooper remains at 85% of the total cost to the state. There was legislation that did not pass last year to have the Towns pay 100% of the cost of the Trooper and it was not brought up again at the legislature this year.

Mr. Komuves asked how the property revaluation that was recently completed will play into the mill rate calculation. BOF Chairman Weingart explained that the revaluation will take effect for the October 2018 Grand List and that list will govern the budget for FY 19-20. The most recent revaluation did not play into the budget for FY18-19.

Mrs. Blair asked about the increase to the technology coordinator salary from 48k to 65,750k and if there is a curricular component to the position. Superintendent Henrici explained that the position was formerly a split position between Parish Hill Middle/High School and Chaplin Elementary School which evolved into a position for Chaplin Elementary School. The new technical coordinator took a significant cut in pay to come to the position and was also the only applicant. It was stated that there is a curricular component to his position. Principal King described the duties of the position. Both Superintendent Henrici and Principal King spoke in support of technology coordinator.

Ms. Chuk asked questions about class size and if Chaplin Elementary School sends their own special education teachers to the magnet schools since the magnet schools charge more for special education. Principal King answered that the Director of Special Education goes to all of the PPT's at the magnet school but our special education teachers do not go to the schools to provide services.

Moderator made a motion to approve the FY 18-19 budget. Rusty Lanzit / Selectman Rose moved / seconded the motion to approve the budget.

*This item of the call is adjourned to referendum on May 22, 2018. The question on the ballot shall read:

1. "Shall the Town of Chaplin appropriate the sum of \$8,407,506 for the General Government and Education Expenditures for Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 as recommended by the Board of Finance?"
6. To appropriate for fiscal year 2017-2018 the transfer of an amount not to exceed \$76,000 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the FY 2017-18 Board of Education/Chaplin Elementary School budget (account number 25100). William Hooper / Stacey Foster moved / seconded the motion to approve the transfer.
 - a. BOE Chairwoman Chancey gave an overview of school's budget emphasizing the fact that the school is not currently over budget. This transfer will help to correct the financial procedures that are currently in place that do not provide for unanticipated costs. This appropriation will not affect the MBR. BOF Chairman Weingart spoke in support of the appropriation saying he regards this as progress towards getting better control of the budgeting process and asking for money for unanticipated costs in a timely manner. He also spoke about a 'financial procedures working group' that has been created as well as a new hire of a business manager.

Ms. Chuk asked what would happen to the funds if the school did not end up using them. BOF Chairman Weingart answered that the funds would either revert to the Town or into a non-lapsing fund. The Moderator called for a hand vote of those in favor of approving the transfer with the following results: Yes – 38, No – 0, Abstentions - 0. The motion passed
 7. To appropriate for fiscal year 2018-2019 the transfer of an amount not to exceed \$7,075 from CIP Fund Project #3300.4 (CES Classroom Blinds) to new CIP Fund Project for CES Cafeteria Tables. BOE Chairwoman Chancey / Guy Ricklin moved / seconded motion to approve the transfer. Yes – 43, no – 0, Abstentions – 0. The motion passed.

8. To appropriate for fiscal year 2018-2019 the transfer of an amount not to exceed \$9,000 from CIP Fund Project #3300.7 (CES Roof Tower Windows) to new CIP Fund Project for CES Cafeteria Tables. BOE Chairwoman Chancey / Stacy Foster moved / seconded the motion to approve the transfer. Yes – 42, No – 0, Abstentions – 0. The motion passed.
9. To appropriate for fiscal year 2018-2019 the transfer of an amount not to exceed \$9,000 from CIP Fund Project #3300.9 (CES Boiler Water Piping) to new CIP Fund Project for CES Smoke Detectors. BOE Chairwoman / William Hooper moved / seconded the motion to approve the transfer. Yes – 43, No – 0, Abstentions – 0. The motion passed.
10. To appropriate for fiscal year 2018-2019 the transfer of an amount not to exceed \$5,000 from General Fund account number #0701.11 (Eversource Energy HVAC Grant) to a new CIP Fund Project for a split system HVAC Unit for Town Hall. BOE Chairwoman Chancey / Helen Weingart moved / seconded. Yes – 42, No – 0, Abstentions – 0. The motion passed.
11. To appropriate for fiscal year 2018-2019 the transfer of an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to CIP Fund Project #3305.18 (Vehicle Replacement) to complete funding for the purchase a new Department of Public Works plow truck. BOE Chairwoman Chancey / Sally Ireland moved / seconded. Yes – 43, No – 0, Abstentions – 0. The motion passed
12. To appropriate for fiscal year 2018-2019 the transfer of an amount not to exceed \$150,000 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to CIP Fund Project #3305.9 (North Bear Hill Road Drainage). BOE Chairwoman Chancey / Sandra Horning moved / seconded.
 - a) First Selectman stated that the Town is currently working with NECCOG to see if there are hazard mitigation plan – grant funds available to help fund this project. This is a closed drainage system that will help the flooding. It is not known when it will be finished. Yes – 42, No – 0, Abstentions – 0. The motion passed.
13. Public Hearings and possible action to:
 - a. To discuss adding painted center lines on Town roads. Selectman Rose IV gave an overview of the plan to paint center lines on Town roads including the cost estimates of painting, the approximate number of miles that would be painted and variables to the project such as chip sealing roads. Citizens spoke at length regarding whether or not the center lines increase or decrease safety for drivers, cyclists, runners and pedestrians. Selectman Rose stated the intent of the discussion was to determine if there is enough interest to move forward and calculate the roads that qualify to have lines painted on them and the cost as well as the life expectancy of the paint on the road. More information would be needed. Cesar Beltran / Christine Blair moved / seconded motion to ask the BOS to continue researching this subject and bring the information back to the public. Yes – 25, No – 4, Abstentions – 3. A poll vote for all in favor of painting center lines on the roads, Yes – 3, No – 23, All in favor of more information – 4.
 - b. *To discuss removal by the Town of signs installed via the State’s Horizontal Curve Project along some Town of Chaplin roads without prior objection by the Town. The citizens spoke out regarding the lack of opportunity for “prior objection by the Town”.
 - i. Selectman Cunningham reviewed the discussions that occurred during Board of Selectmen meetings as well as discussion with the Town’s insurance carrier CIRMA regarding removal of the signs. Selectman Rose gave background on this project stating the Federal Government gave grant funds to the State of Connecticut to put horizontal curve signs in high traffic areas and areas of concern. Selectman Rose signed a request that he was interested in looking into the curve signs. The State of Connecticut and Engineers came out to Chaplin and presented a proposal with maps and drawings of the location of the signs and the number of signs to be installed and presented the proposal to the Selectmen’s office. At this point Selectman Cunningham signed off on the project without going to public hearing. He added that many Selectmen in the State signed off on the project without going to public hearing as they thought it was a safety issue. When it became clear that citizens of the Town objected to the signs Selectman Cunningham discussed removing the signs with CIRMA as well as with the Town Attorney Dennis O’Brian. Attorney O’Brian returned an opinion discouraging removal of the signs. CIRMA discouraged the sign removal as well. Discussion continued regarding Town liability to remove the signs and also if we are liable to install signs at every corner the State recommended, the excessive number of the signs that have been installed, many felt the signs are too bright and wondered if there is a solution to make the signs less distracting and

unattractive. Some spoke in favor of the signs and felt they improve safety on the roads. *This item of the call is adjourned to referendum on May 22, 2018 and shall be advisory only, and the results not legally binding. The question on the ballot shall read:

2. “May any horizontal curve sign installed by the State in the right of way of any Town road without prior objection by the Town, be removed by the Board of Selectmen upon citizen complaint, even if removal charges may be applied, and litigation and even Town liability are possible if an accident occurs near a point of removal?”

14. At 9:06 p.m. BOF Chairman Weingart made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dated at Chaplin, Connecticut, this 17th day of May 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Smith, Chaplin Town Clerk