

**CHAPLIN BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**Chaplin, Connecticut**  
**Budget Hearing Minutes**  
**April 11, 2016**

Chairperson Dick Weingart opened the Public Hearing at 7:05 PM. Present were Board members Bruce Raymond, Jean Lambert, Cesar Beltran and Alternate Matt Foster. Others present were First Selectman Matt Cunningham, Emergency Preparedness Director Jim Randall and Superintendent Ken Henrici. Unable to attend was Board members Marc Johnson and Doug Dubitsky.

**3. READ PUBLIC HEARING LEGAL NOTICE:**

Dick Weingart read the Public Hearing Legal Notice that was published in the Chronicle on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**4. GROUND RULES FOR PUBLIC HEARING:**

The audience was asked to direct any questions to Chairperson Dick Weingart.

**5. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF BUDGET PROCESS:**

• **REVIEW KEY BUDGET POLICIES AND ASSUMPTIONS:**

- Balance the budget in both FY 16-17 and FY 17-18
- Maintain a “no tax increase” budget in FY 16-17
- Maintain a Fund Balance equal to approximately 10% of annual Expenditures
- Use a portion of any excess Fund Balance for Capital Equipment and infrastructure repairs that are urgently needed
- Maintain additional Fund Balance as protection against:
  - 1) A known FY 2015-16 Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) Shortfall of \$126,630 for the Board of Education
  - 2) Unpredictable State Grant funding for municipal aid in FY 16-17
  - 3) Unknown Bedlam Road bridge costs

**6. PRESENTATION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TOWN BUDGETS; AUDIENCE QUESTIONS:**

Superintendent Henrici presented the Chaplin Elementary and RD11 budget. Principal King and Chairperson Stacy Foster could not attend tonight’s meeting due to another meeting conflict.

**The Chaplin Elementary budget** has an increase of 2.94% that includes health insurance (4%), non-certified special education, magnet school tuition (there are presently 19 students, difficult to project). Two factors that could provide savings to the budget are the MBR (\$126,000 deficit that has been appealed to the state) and the early retirement incentive (decision by staff due by May 16<sup>th</sup>).

Adele Swart asked for enrollment and cost per pupil. Superintendent Henrici reported that there are 175 students at Chaplin Elementary with a gross cost per student at approximately \$20,000. There are 255 students at Parish Hill (includes outplaced students) with a gross cost per student at approximately \$22,000.

Dick Weingart explained the MBR penalty. The town will be asked to appropriate \$126,000 for the current fiscal year to meet the state requirement.

**The RD11 budget** has an increase of 0.83% that includes contractual salaries, health insurance and magnet school tuition. Staff reductions due to projected declining enrollment included two 1.0 FTE to .6 and one non-certified staff. Diesel fuel was locked in at \$1.91/gal. There were AP enhancements and Parish Hill was rated in the top 3<sup>rd</sup> of all high schools with new grading system.

Cesar Beltran asked about the notably improved school climate. Superintendent Henrici reported that the following four areas impact school climate: number of suspensions, detentions, dropouts (there were 0), graduation rate (all students who enrolled in September 2011 graduated in 2015). A new administration and stronger counseling department has helped improve the school climate. Matt Foster attested that there are better relationships between teachers and students.

Jim Randall asked for clarification on transportation. Superintendent Henrici reported that regular transportation for grades K-12 is in the Chaplin Elementary budget. Transportation in the RD11 budget is for field trips, work study, athletics and late bus.

Dick Weingart asked for clarification on the reduction for outplaced students. Superintendent Henrici reported that students may need post education services that are required to age 21 (transition services required per PPT).

Dick Weingart reported that most of the **town agency budgets** are flat funded. Employee Benefits and Costs has an increase for health insurance (4% increase and changes in enrollment). Planning and Zoning has an increase for zoning enforcement due to new ordinance. There are no salary increases pending Public Works negotiations. There is a Town Contingency Account (\$15,000 for General Contingency and \$12,000 for Salary Contingency). Mr. Weingart reviewed the projected revenues & expenditures, fund balance, property tax (this is the 1<sup>st</sup> year for a cap on motor vehicle tax at 32 mills), State reimbursement in lieu of taxes, State and Federal funding (Chaplin is expected to lose approximately \$47,000 in ECS funding) and the Capital Improvement Plan.

Cesar Beltran asked about Recreation. Matt Foster reported that the Recreation budget includes sports and more community events (concerts in the park, fishing tournament) and field repair.

Henry Swart asked for clarification on the relocation of the Town Museum.

**7. ANNOUNCE TIME AND PLACE OF FUTURE MEETINGS:**

The BOF Budget Workshop will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup> followed by a referendum.

**8. ADJOURN:**

The Budget Hearing adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Minutes will be approved at the next regular meeting.

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott  
Recording Clerk*