

**CHAPLIN BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**Chaplin, Connecticut**  
**Budget Public Hearing Minutes**  
**April 9, 2018**

Chairperson Dick Weingart opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 PM. Present were Board members Link Diwan, Jean Lambert, Doug Dubitsky, Alternate Linda Caron and Alternate Matt Foster. Unable to attend were Board members Cesar Beltran and Marc Johnson and Alternate Bill Jenkins. Others present were First Selectman Matt Cunningham, Selectman Bill Rose, Superintendent Ken Henrici, Principal Patricia King, Library Director Sandra Horning and Special Education Director Marcia McGinley.

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

Dick Weingart read the public notice that was published in the Chronicle.

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

Any questions should be directed to the Board.

**5. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF BUDGET PROCESS: REVIEW KEY BUDGET POLICIES AND ASSUMPTIONS:**

The Board of Finance started the budget process early this year. The proposed budget is preliminary with most items reviewed.

For FY2018-19:

- Achieve a mill rate reduction while balancing the budget.
- Balance the budget.
- Maintain an Unassigned Fund Balance equal to approximately 10-12% of annual Expenditures.
- Use the Fund Balance in a judicious way to avoid large structural deficits.
- Use a portion of any excess Fund Balance for urgently needed Capital Equipment purchases and infrastructure repairs.
- Maintain additional Fund Balance as protection against:
  - a. Unknown repair & replacement needs for aging Town infrastructure and vehicles.
  - b. Unpredictable State grant funding for municipal aid in FY2018, FY2019, and beyond.
  - c. Unknown Bedlam Road and England Road budget costs.

NOTE: Salary increases for FY2018-19 have not been determined yet. The BOS will be conducting negotiations with Public Works in the coming months.

There is a link on the website to review the budget.

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

Superintendent Henrici presented overview of CES budget (Board Chair Jaclyn Chancey and Board member Will Hooper could not attend), RD11 budget and COC budget.

**CES Budget**

- Fiscally responsible with a 3.77% increase.
- Areas that impact the budget are: special education costs for outplaced student (excess cost grant expected to be returned to the town), health insurance, workers compensation premium, contractual salaries, reduction in ECS grant funding, elimination of state transportation grant and STEM Magnet school tuition, early retirement incentive (\$10,000 for three years or a lump sum).

Dick Weingart asked why the budget has \$35,000 for early retirement (three teachers have taken the incentive). Superintendent Henrici will check on this item.

Chris Komuves read an email from Chaplin Board of Education member Will Hooper regarding the budget. He expressed the importance of reading and physical activity and asked that cuts not be made to the Library and Physical Education program.

#### **RD11 Budget**

- Fiscally responsible with a 0.69% increase.
- Areas that impact the budget are: health insurance, special education cost for outplaced student, magnet school tuition and workers compensation premium.
- Previously reduced staff was restored.
- Enrollment is projected to stay the same.
- The Public Hearing will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup> followed by a referendum on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **COC Budget**

- The proposed budget has an 8.96% increase.
- Areas that impact the budget are: new position for Business Manager (needed to manage finances, transportation contracts and grants) change in number of days for the Special Education Director, contractual salaries and health insurance.

Link Diwan asked for a job description for the Business Manager position. Superintendent Henrici reported that a draft will be presented to the Central Office Committee.

Selectman Bill Rose reported that he is on the AdHoc Committee to review financial procedures for the town.

#### **Town Budget**

- The total town proposed budget has a 2.54% increase.
- There is a revenues budget surplus for FY2017-18 with a portion that may be used for capital improvements.
- The mill rate is projected to go down 1.15.
- The Fund Balance is 11.63% for FY2016-17 and 16.68% for FY2017-18. The auditors recommend a Fund Balance around 10%.
- ECS Funding was less than projected and the transportation Grant was eliminated.
- Half of the funds for the Town Aid Road grant was received with the remainder tied up in a bond funding issue.
- Property Tax Revenue for FY2017-18 was higher due to the Algonquin project.
- The Board of Finance budget has an increase for needed administrative support for the budget process.
- Employee Benefits & Costs has an increase for health insurance.
- Police Protection has a decrease for a change from 100% funding to 85% funding of total State cost.
- Sanitation has a contractual increase.
- The Town Contingency Accounts has an increase to \$40,100.

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

- The RD11 Budget Public Hearing will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup> followed by a referendum on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

- The Chaplin Town Meeting will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm followed by a referendum on Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**8. ADJOURN:**

The Public Hearing adjourned at 8:56 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott  
Recording Clerk*