

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Chaplin, Connecticut
Thursday, January 5, 2023**

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Richard Weingart, Chairman/Board of Finance

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm
- 2. First Audience of Citizens:** Therese Smith, Assistant Secretary of the Chaplin Volunteer Program approached the Board with concerns pertaining to the computer training program, which was approved at the June 2022 meeting of the BOS, and the use of the Fire Hall to store the needed computers and provide space for the training to occur. T Smith asked the Board if they felt it was an appropriate place for the training and equipment and, if not, where an alternative space may be. J Roman stated that he would add this discussion to the agenda under new business. Jeanette Haines of the Library Board asked about the possible merit increase to the salary of the Library Director and what the timeline might be. Discussion to be added to the agenda under New Business.
- 3. Additions to the Agenda:** J Roman added the following to New Business on the 01/05/2023 Agenda of the BOS:
 - C. Discussion of Group Medical/Dental
 - D. HVAC System-Fire House
 - E. Firehouse use/computer education program
 - F. Library Director Merit Increase
- 4. Approve minutes of the Board of Selectmen regular meeting on December 1, 2022** *K. Fortier made a MOTION to approve the December 1, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes with correction. J. Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.*
- 5. Communications and Reports**
 - A. Trooper Report – TFC Shaun Tucker submitted statistics collected between the dates of 12/1/2022 and 12/31/2022. See attached report.
 - B. Board Members Reports:

Leslie Ricklin, Chair of the Ad-Hoc Bicentennial Committee summarized a letter that she had emailed to J Roman on 12/14/2022 discussing the need to continue meeting that the Committee feels is necessary in order to determine the best way to go about archiving the many pieces of memorabilia, documents, pictures and videos from the Bicentennial year. The goal will be to make all materials accessible to all residents in the future. Approximately \$ 17,000 remains in the CIP Fund for the

Bicentennial Committee and they would like to draw on these funds to assist in the archive process. L Ricklin stated that they are coming to the Board as a courtesy to keep them informed of future activities and meetings. J Roman stated that the use of the funds should be presented to the BOS for approval. J Roman asked about the cost of the Benjamin Chaplin Cupboard Restoration and who should be covering the approximate \$1,500-\$ 2,000 cost. A restrictive fund that exists for the maintenance of the Russ Memorial Library was discussed as a possible resource now that the Russ Memorial Library is no longer owned by the Town. D Weingart reported that there is approximately \$3,400 in this fund.

- C. Board of Finance Discussion: D Weingart, Chair of the Board of Finance, reported that the first draft of the 2022 audit report has been submitted showing a possible \$200,000 surplus. The budget request documents have been sent out and are due back in early February. D Weingart reported that he has developed a budget calendar which he would like to see posted to the Town website. Capital Improvement Plan requests were due back to the BOS office on 12/29/2022 and the first meeting of the CIP Committee is scheduled for Thursday 1/12/2023 at 6 PM in the Senior Center Community Room.

D.

Correspondence: None

E. Building/Infrastructure: None

F. Treasurer Report: None

- G. Department of Public Works Report: Dave Stone, DPW Supervisor, submitted a Chaplin Roads Tree Survey which predicts approximately 135 days of tree work over the next three years.

6. **New Business**

A. Tax Collector Refunds: None

B. Appointments and Resignations: None

C. Group Medical/Dental RFB: J Roman reported that he has signed a letter from Superintendent Ken Henrici approving the RD#11 to start shopping for insurance carriers. Chaplin Elementary will be included.

D. HVAC-Firehouse: A new HVAC System for the firehouse has been given to Gordian to begin the bidding process. The units in the fire house hall fail frequently with the last failure occurring during a recent opening of the Town's warming center.

E. Use of the Firehouse Hall for Computer Education Program: T Smith stated that this community service was proposed and approved at the June 2022 BOS meeting. At this meeting, the storage of the 8 computers used for this service were to be stored in the Fire Hall with Jim Randal, Emergency Management Director, obtaining free shelving from UConn which were placed in the big room of the Fire Hall. J Pinto expressed concern about the location given that the Fire Hall is rented to the public

and requested that the computers be stored elsewhere for their safety. T Smith is making room in the secretaries office at the fire department for the computer storage. Coordinating times for the computer education services was discussed and will be determined in conjunction with the BOS Administrative Assistant who handles the scheduling of Fire Hall rentals.

- F. Library Director Merit Salary Increase: J Roman stated that, to better discuss the issue, they will add the discussion in Executive Session at the February 2, 2023 meeting.

7. **Old Business**

- A. American Rescue Plan Funds: J Roman reported that he is waiting to hear a start date for the project.
- B. All Pending and New FOI Requests: None
- C. Discussion of New Emergency Radio System: J Pinto reported that the grant application is going forward.
- D. Discussion of Emergency Service TV Monitor: Tabled until next month's meeting.
- E. Discussion of Chaplin Day: Tabled until next month's meeting.
- F. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Regulations for the Use of the Joseph Ferrara Community Room: Tabled until next month's meeting.
- G. Discussion and Possible Action for the Purchase of Hurst Battery Powered Rescue Tools for the New Firetruck: J Pinto stated that he and Chris Bray were unaware that the purchase would need to go out to bid. J Roman stated that, according to Town Ordinance, any purchase over \$7,500 must go out to bid.
- H. USDA Grant-Purchase of a New Fire Truck: Susan Welshman is currently working with Tricia Anderson, Grant Coordinator, on the finalization of request for re-imbusement.
- I. Discuss Updates on Bedlam Bridge and England Road Bridge: A request for bid for engineering services has been prepared and is ready to go out.
- J. Discuss Electronic Sign Re-imbusement status: Re-imbusement has progressed to the fiscal department for processing.

8. Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion: Resident asked how often an Emergency Command Center would be needed during the year and what would the specific needs be for it's functioning. J Pinto reported the Command Center would mostly be used during major weather events and that the discussion of its requirements are in the very early phases.

9. Agenda Suggestions for next meeting: Addition of an Executive Session to discuss policy and procedure for salary increases.

10. Date, time, and place of next meeting (February 2, 2023, at 7:00pm, Chaplin Town Hall).

11. Adjourn: J. Pinto made a MOTION to adjourn at 8:45 pm. K. Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.

*Respectfully Submitted by,
Susan Welshman
Administrative Assistant*

**TOWN OF CHAPLIN
RESIDENT STATE TROOPER
December 2022**

TO: Juan Roman; First Selectman
FROM: TFC Shaun Tucker #1237

Sir,

The following reflect the statistics collected between the dates of December 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022:

	Resident Trooper	CSP (all except RT)	TOTAL
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	16	48	59
Traffic Accident – No Injury	1	3	4
Traffic Accident – With Injury	0	1 (FATALITY)	1
Reportable Incidents	1	3	4
Traffic Stops	0	10	10

Notable events/incidents:

During the month of December the Resident Trooper continued to perform regular enhanced security checks at the town's schools. The DARE Course held its graduation ceremony at the elementary school.

I completed two pistol permit background checks. I attended the Parish Hill High School Chorus Christmas Concert. I participated the Tommy Toy Fund Toy Drive held at the chaplin firehouse. The town's residents once again proved themselves to be very generous, and we were able to collect hundreds of toys and cash donations.

There was one accident with fatality involving a State Trooper on Route 6 in Chaplin. That investigation is being handled by the State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction "CARS" Unit. The State Trooper suffered non-life threatening injuries.

I am currently training a new trooper on and off throughout the end of the year. On a day that I take the new trooper to cover one of Troop D's patrol areas there will always be another trooper assigned to the town in my absence for that shift.

Respectfully,

TFC Shaun Tucker #1237