

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Chaplin, Connecticut
Thursday, November 2, 2017
MINUTES**

Members Present: Matthew Cunningham, First Selectman; Irene Schein, Selectman; William H. Rose IV, Selectman.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Richard Weingart, Board of Finance Chairman; Cesar Beltram, Member Board of Finance; Jim Randall, Emergency Preparedness Director; Diana Fiasconaro, Treasurer; David Stone, DPW Supervisor; Robert Lawler, DPW Driver/Operator; Daniel Ostman, DPW Driver/Operator; Angie Hill, Assistant Librarian; Leslie Ricklin, Member Library Board of Trustees and Mr. Ricklin.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm
2. **Additions to Agenda:** None
3. **First Audience of Citizens:** Jim Randall reported on the REPT meeting last week in Colchester, we have an additional \$87,000 to spend before April. This could buy vests and helmets for the EMT's; funds cannot be used for communications. First Net segregated communications systems were discussed and how they work – separate communication lines in the event of an emergency, off the public systems.

Mr. Ricklin asked about the potential change to the road where England road and Route 198 meet and it being changed to a right angle. Mr. Cunningham stated it was due to safety reasons to slow traffic down. Also discussed was Chaplin Street entering onto Route 198 and how cars don't come to a stop that this should also be looked at. Mr. Ricklin asked about the museum and Mr. Rose explained that the building cannot be used as is due to no parking, septic, and heat – hence the discussion regarding moving it. Nothing will happen without approval from planning and zoning, public hearing and a Town vote.

Cesar Beltram discussed the Carl Lutz and Glass House Holocaust exhibit on 11/10/17 at the library, all are invited to attend.

On behalf of the Library Board of Trustees, Mrs. Ricklin asked permission for a group to create a bicentennial garden near the Library/Senior Center. Mr. Cunningham requested a diagram and had no issues with a garden. Mr. Rose informed Mrs. Ricklin that the area they are looking at is a few feet deep in sand and will need a lot of top soil.

Mr. Weingart asked if signage can be put up in front of the firehouse for the election on 11/7 and also send out a notice via Google Groups.

4. **Approve minutes of Regular Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2017:** Ms. Schein made a motion to approve the October 5, 2017 regular meeting minutes for the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Passed.

5. Communications and Reports

- A. Trooper Report – October 2017:** The Board noted the drop in call volume for the month of October.
- B. Board Members Reports:** Mr. Cunningham reported on the storm damage from earlier in the week – all power has been restored and roads are open. He also commended the Department of Public Works crews in the excellent work on the roads and how they handled the storm. CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) packets went out and he will get quotes for Town Hall sidewalk repair and resealing the driveway.

Mr. Rose discussed moving the command center to the Firehouse. Mr. Cunningham stated they have quotes to move the mast/antenna's and a quote on setting the masts – payment comes out of the EMS fund.

The Board discussed the Add/Withdraw Committee Study and Mr. Cunningham stated he supports regionalization. Mr. Cunningham also reported on the State budget that is going to pass – less cuts than previously expected, instead of 1.2 million we are looking at about \$92,000.

- C. Board of Finance Discussion:** Mr. Weingart reported that the motor vehicle tax bills went out at 32 mills, although the new State budget allows up to 39 mills, no supplemental bills will be issued. If the State gives the Town the ECS and LOCIP funds, approx. \$75,000, we will be in good shape. Mr. Weingart informed the board that the Board of Finance voted against the appropriation for the deficit from Chaplin Elementary School to be approved at Town meeting. Before this appropriation takes place, they want to establish checks and balances with policies for the school to prevent this from happening. The Board of Selectmen expressed their concerns that according to the auditors this must be appropriated to balance the books. They are not against the checks and balances but it should not hold up the transfer of funds. Mr. Beltram stated that they Board of Finance will meet again soon to discuss and they will get it passed.
- D. Correspondence:** Mr. Cunningham shared a letter from the State (Benjamin Barnes) regarding concerns with the new budget, specifically renters rebate and property tax relief for elderly circuit breaker which may make the Town pay for these programs.
- E. Building/Infrastructure:** No reports at this time.
- F. Discussion regarding Recreation Commission:** Currently there are basketball signups for grades 3-6, cost is \$70 and they are looking for volunteers.
- G. Discussion regarding the Chaplin Community and Economic Development Commission:** Ms. Schein reported that the commission is considering Pine Acres for elderly housing and they are also talking to our zoning officer regarding this property. The Hop sub-committee is also working with the owner of the Willimantic Brewery and may be offering hop/brewing 101 workshop which may attract land owners into the hop business.

6. New Business

- A. Tax Collector Refunds:** Irene Schein made a motion to approve a tax refund to Jordan Flint in the amount of \$310.40. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed. Ms. Schein made a motion to approve a tax refund to Jordan Flint in the amount of \$26.88. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.
- B. Resignations/Appointments:** None

- C. **Discussion and possible action on procedures regarding signing checks:** Mr. Rose requested to the Board that they go back to having 3 signatures on checks instead of 2 so all the Selectmen are in the loop to what is getting paid. All members of the Board agreed to go back to 3 signatures but ultimately it is the Treasurer's decision. Diana Fiasconaro stated a check register can be provided if they would like to review the checks without having to go to 3 signatures as there is no need to have 3 signatures, it seems to be working fine the way it is now.

7. Old Business

- A. **STEAP Grant (North Bear Hill Bridge):** Mr. Cunningham reported that the project is 2 weeks behind, both due to the storm and prior equipment breakdowns. The contractor is asking permission to work during winter shutdown and 1/2 days on Saturday, which went to the engineer for approval. The final designs should be coming in soon for the upper project too.
- B. **Discussion regarding handicapped access at the Senior Center:** Mr. Cunningham reported on a delay due to the storm so project work should continue next week.
- C. **Discussion regarding use of Community Center:** New tiler should be coming on Monday to give a quote.
- D. **Status of Chaplin Museum and William Ross Library re-location:** Town meeting needs to be held to get resident input on what they would like to see happen with the buildings. New quotes for building moves should be available for the meeting and site drawings.
- E. **Status of Dissolution Study and Add/Withdraw Grades Study:** Mr. Cunningham will be meeting with some members of the dissolution study committee to discuss deed restrictions on the school. Richard Roberts, Land Attorney, is researching the title. The Add/Withdraw referendum is on 11/16 and the full report is available on the website.
- F. **Discuss tentative plans to celebrate Chaplin Bicentennial in 2022:** No updates
- G. **Discuss All Pending and New FOI Requests:** None
- H. **Human Resources Updates/Changes:** None
- I. **Discussion regarding the Department of Public Works:** Mr. Cunningham stated DPW crew did an excellent job during the storm, especially DPW Supervisor, Dave Stone, did an outstanding job overseeing the crews.
- J. **Discussion regarding Public Safety and Resident Trooper Program:** Mr. Cunningham reported that the new state budget reflects the current cost sharing that we have now.
- K. **Discussion on Energize CT Grant:** During CIP meetings they can discuss the project this grant can be used for.
- L. **Discussion regarding leasing space in the Old Post Office Building:** Rainy day project, still needs work.
- M. **Conservation Commission – Review status of commission and ordinance:** Mr. Cunningham spoke with Conservation Commission Chair, Juan Sanchez, and once he retires this year he wants to revitalize this group.
- N. **Discussion regarding solar panel project at the Senior Center/Library Building:** Ms. Schein made a motion for the Board of Selectmen to proceed with the proper processes with the Historic District Commission regarding installing solar panels on the Library/Senior Center building. Mr. Cunningham stated that proper process has already been initiated once it was determined that the municipal buildings are not exempt from the rules of the historic district. No motion passed.
- O. **Discuss and possible action on legal notice for a Special Town meeting:** Tabled

Mr. Rose made a motion to enter executive session. Motion withdrawn, the Board decided to move agenda item # 9 "Second Audience of Citizens" to agenda item #8.

8. Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion.

Guy Ricklin asked about the status of the old museum and why it may be moved. Mr. Rose explained the issue that the building cannot be used due to no parking, heat, and septic.

Mr. Weingart requested that the Board approve the COST membership.

Mr. Randall asked if the Board would consider installing a generator at the Library/Senior Center.

Leslie Ricklin, previous member of the Historic District Commission, offered her services if anyone would like to take a walk down Chaplin Street and she can give history on the boundaries of the district.

9. Other Business

- A. Personnel Matter: CONFIDENTIAL, and subject to be discussed in Executive Session per General Statutes section 1-200(6)(A), upon motion and vote of the Board of Selectmen:** Mr. Cunningham made a motion to enter Executive Session at 8:57pm. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed. Mr. Rose, Mr. Cunningham, and Ms. Schein entered Executive Session.

Executive session ended at 9:28pm.

B. Possible action on items discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to move Department of Public Works Employee, Daniel Ostman, from a part-time position into a full-time position as a union member. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

9. Agenda Suggestions for next meeting:

10. Date, time, and place of next meeting (December 7, 2017 @ 7:00pm @ the Town Hall)

11. Adjourn: Regular meeting was adjourned at 9:33pm;

*Respectfully Submitted by Suzanne Gluck
Administrative Assistant/Recording Clerk*