

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Chaplin, Connecticut
Thursday, June 1, 2017
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Cunningham, First Selectman; Irene Schein, Selectman; William H. Rose IV, Selectman.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Doug Dubitsky, State Representative; Dick Weingart, Chairman Board of Finance; Eugene Boomer, ROV.

1. **Call to Order:** Matthew Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:01pm
2. **Additions to Agenda:** Irene Schein asked to add 5G. Economic Community and Development Commission Discussion/Updates.
3. **First Audience of Citizens:** Doug Dubitsky gave an update on the progress of the State budget; there will be no budget by 6/7. Items up for debate are tolls, casinos and marijuana. Republican house and senate put forth budgets. Democratic house and senate do not have a budget to present. Governor has budget which clobbers towns and not likely going to get a vote. Toll solution will take 2 years to receive any funds, same for the casino. Discussed slots in off track betting locations, this is part of the discussions to bring in a new casino and to also add revenue to surrounding towns.
4. **Approve minutes of:** Irene Schein made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2017. William Rose IV seconded the motion. All in favor. No discussion.
5. **Communications and Reports**
 - A. **Trooper Report – May 2017:** The Board reviewed the Trooper statistics. Activity shows increase of cases but same percentage handled by Trooper Black. Increase in motor vehicle activity.
 - B. **Board Members Reports:** None.
 - C. **Board of Finance Discussion:** Dick Weingart reported there were no Board of Finance meetings since the referendum. He spoke with the assessor and tax collector about mill rate options and municipal aids. The BOF scheduled a special meeting for Monday night and asked them to be at meeting for questions. Gay St. Louis, Tax Collector, recommends we keep to regular schedule for personal property and real estate bills. Depending on mill rate cap schedule and grant funds available. Also, it is reasonable to delay motor vehicle tax bills until the State budget is firmed up. They will work up a couple of scenarios on the mill rate, depending on what happens with state. Dick Weingart will ask Ken Henrici for an update on the Chaplin Elementary School budget deficit situation so we can update figures. He will also be working with Valerie Garrison, Finance Manager, on new data reporting mechanism for financials. He also asked about the status of the procedures requested by the auditors, Matthew Cunningham is near completion on the request. Also, they will be having a session with Ken Henrici and Patricia King about opportunities for sharing services, i.e. ground maintenance and snow plowing but process needs more development.
 - D. **Correspondence:** None

- E. Building/Infrastructure:** Matthew Cunningham reported an issue with the water heater at the Senior Center – Action Air fixed with a cost effective replacement. Irene Schein asked why we are using propane if solar panels are coming. Matthew Cunningham stated that the heating system is propane.
- F. Discussion regarding Recreation Commission:** Matthew Cunningham reported that there will be a soccer clinic camp sponsored by Yes Soccer. They recruit coaches/trainers from the UK and England and they host clinics for surrounding towns.
- G. Economic Community and Development Commission Discussion/Updates:** Irene Schein read a letter going out to local businesses to let them know of the commission and the goals to help local businesses. Matthew Cunningham stated that there may be an available email address for the commission to use for correspondence. Irene Schein also stated that there is new interest in the community to grow hops; she will be attending a seminar on this. The commission also discussed farmers market and reached out to Mariah from the Bozrah farmers market to get information. The commission discussed breweries and how they would like to see one in Chaplin, Norwich opened 2 small breweries. The commission also discussed re-establishing the Chaplin Country Fair in the fall and suggested the Recreation Commission get involved.

6. New Business

- A. Tax Collector Refunds –** Matthew Cunningham made a motion to approve a tax refund to Erika Knight in the amount of \$50.37. Irene Schein seconded the motion. All in favor. Matthew Cunningham made a motion to approve a tax refund to Vault Trust in the amount of \$129.69. Irene Schein seconded the motion. All in favor.
- B. Resignations/Appointments -** None.
- C. Discuss and possible action on the FY 2017-2019 Resident State Trooper contract.** Matthew Cunningham reported that he has not received the new contract yet and will reach out to Troop D. Due to the fact referendum voting results favored keeping the Trooper, he recommends moving forward with the contract. Irene Schein stated it was a poor turnout for voting.
- D. Discuss issuing Town email addresses. –** Matthew Cunningham explained that for FOI (Freedom of Information Act) reasons it is important staff use Town email addresses instead of their personal ones. We now have Microsoft software in place so these emails can be archived on the server.

7. Old Business

- A. STEAP Grant (North Bear Hill Bridge)**
Matthew Cunningham gave an update on the bridge, the coffer dams are on location, it is currently dammed off and CL&P (Eversource) are moving power lines. The contractor's foreman is hoping next week to take the bridge out.
- B. Discussion regarding handicapped access at the Senior Center.** Matthew Cunningham reported he has 2 additional bids, Manchester Lock and a Colchester company. Professional Lock is cheaper by about \$1,000 – even quoted higher end equipment and they can start as early as 7/2. This project is part of the CIP Plan.
- C. Discussion regarding use of Community Center.** The floor is prepped for tile. Dave Stone will check into cost for the crew to paint it or hire a painter – to be done before tile is put in. The Board discussed who will oversee booking of the room and it will be handled by the Administrative Assistant at Town Hall; this will also include booking of Garrison Park.
- D. Status of Chaplin Museum and William Ross Library re-location:** Irene Schein requested the museum be painted. Matthew Cunningham stated it will be done by DPW. The Board discussed the excessive costs to move the library – the old museum would be more affordable to move if that is what's decided. They also discussed the possibility of selling the old library to an abutting neighbor seeing the Town cannot do anything with the building.

- E. Status of Dissolution Study and Add/Withdraw Grades Study:** The Dissolution committee sent letters to other districts about taking our students, one response from E.O. Smith would offer significant savings. Mr. Rose reminded the Board that special education costs would add another 20%. The bigger issue more than just the money is the declining population. Also, Scotland is not in a good state and if they are no longer part of RD11 how can Chaplin and Hampton float Parish Hill Middle/High School?
- F. Discuss tentative plans to celebrate Chaplin Bicentennial in 2022.** Matthew Cunningham suggested the fall festival would be a good venue to combine with the bicentennial celebration.
- G. Discuss All Pending and New FOI Requests - None**
- H. Human Resources Updates/Changes - None**
- I. Discussion regarding the Department of Public Works**
Matthew Cunningham informed the board that Nutmeg has a plow truck from the Town of Groton for sale for \$25,000 and is in better shape than our older trucks. He recommends purchasing it.

He also suggested now that the budget passed; sometime in July/August to move forward with hiring a part-time DPW person. The Town labor attorney has reviewed the handbook and has minor updates.

- J. Discussion regarding Public Safety and Resident Trooper Program:** Irene Schein expressed concerns due to the lack of presence of the Trooper in town; he needs to be more visible. Also, she would like to see more information from him shared to the residents on how to handle the situation of the recent break-ins. Matthew Cunningham stated that Trooper Black is a good investigator and is working on break-ins in town. He does a lot of background work that you don't see. Also, Trooper Black is submitting quarterly articles for the newsletter and we can ask him about doing weekly reports.
- K. Discussion on Energize CT Grant:** Once the Town gets the second grant we can discuss the next energy upgrade. We are hoping mailers will increase community involvement in the energy programs.
- L. Discussion regarding leasing space in the Old Post Office Building:** Matthew Cunningham stated that other work in Town is being done so there have been no updates to the building yet.
- M. Conservation Commission – Review status of commission and ordinance:** Attorney Dennis O'Brien is drafting a sample ordinance to combine Inland Wetlands and Conservation commission.
- N. Discuss and possible action for 2017-2018 Mowing Bids;** Matthew Cunningham elected to go with bidder Custom Cut Landscaping. The low bidder, HHH Properties never mowed cemeteries, didn't pull previous quotes, took almost a month to respond to phone calls and we still haven't received references from them. The current contractor is doing a great job and are his recommendation. Irene Schein made a motion to offer the 2017-2018 mowing contract to Custom Cut Landscaping. William Rose IV seconded the motion. All in favor.

- 8. Other Business:** Irene Schein asked if flags were put in cemeteries for Memorial Day. Matthew Cunningham stated that Dave Stone was doing this with the Boy Scouts. Matt Cunningham informed the Board that the flag pole at the firehouse has been repaired. It was damaged in September from lightning, but due to bad weather it delayed repair, etc. The lanyard was restrung and repaired and the Boy Scouts did a flag raising ceremony.

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

Gene Boomer suggested that they offer the old library for sale to the public, not just abutters. Also, the handicapped parking spots signs in front of the firehouse need repair and symbols repainted.

Dick Weingart suggested posting in Google groups information about the vehicle thefts to let people know what is going on in Town.

10. Agenda Suggestions for next meeting

Communications and Reports

Trooper Report
Board Members Reports
Board of Finance Discussion
Correspondence
Building/Infrastructure
Discussion regarding Recreation Commission

New Business

Tax Collector Refunds
Resignations/Appointments

Old Business

STEAP Grant (North Bear Hill Bridge)
Discussion regarding handicapped access at the Senior Center
Discussion regarding use of Community Center
Status of Chaplin Museum and William Ross Library re-location
Status of Dissolution Study and Add/Withdraw Grades Study
Discuss tentative plans to celebrate Chaplin Bicentennial in 2022.
Discuss All Pending and New FOI Requests
Human Resources Updates/Changes
Discussion regarding the Department of Public Works
Discussion regarding Public Safety and Resident Trooper Program
Discussion on Energize CT Grant
Discussion regarding leasing space in the Old Post Office Building.
Conservation Commission – Review status of commission and ordinance.
Discuss and possible action on the FY 2017-2019 Resident State Trooper contract.

11. Date, time, and place of next meeting (July 6, 2017 @ 7:00pm @ the Town Hall)

12. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.