

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF CHAPLIN
WARNING OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
August 27, 2014**

In attendance: Irene Schein, Shari Smith, William Rose, John Smith, Dick Weingart, Suzanne Gluck, Eugene (Gene) Boomer, William Jenkins, Lisa Rose, Marvin Edelman, Katie Lynch, Andrew Daniels, Jean Lambert, Cynthia Lovely, Stacey Foster and Matt Foster.

The Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and read the Legal Warning.

Irene Schein asked who is allowed to vote at the present meeting. Gene Boomer stated that residents can vote on all items in the legal notice. If you are not a resident but a tax payer, then they can only vote on the financial motions, not the ordinances.

The Town Clerk called for nominations to elect a moderator. Gene Boomer nominated Irene Schein, seconded by John Smith. There being no further nominations Irene Schein was elected by acclamation.

The moderator read Article 2, the proposed "Publication of Ordinance Summary Ordinance," providing that in lieu of verbatim publication, a summary of any ordinance enacted by the Town Meeting may be published, and possible action to adopt the Ordinance. Bill Jenkins made a motion to approve the ordinance, Gene Boomer seconded. Bill Rose summarized that the ordinance would allow the town to publish a summary of proposed ordinances in the newspaper to save advertising costs. The approved ordinance would be available in its entirety at the Town Clerks office for public access. Discussion: Bill Jenkins asked how much it cost to advertise the Legal Warning for this Special Town Meeting and per Shari Smith approximately \$500.00. No further discussion. The moderator called for a hand vote. There were 14 yes votes and motion passed unanimously.

The moderator read Article 3, the proposed "Ordinance concerning the Selection of Alternate Members to the Board of Finance" providing that three alternates may be added to the Board of Finance, and possible action to adopt the Ordinance. Bill Rose stated that there is a typographical error where it states "forty-five (30) days", this needs to be corrected say "thirty (30) days". Dick Weingart made a motion to approve the ordinance. Jean Lambert seconded the motion. Discussion: Dick Weingart stated that this issue has been discussed for some time. The Board of Finance has good, committed members that attend most meetings, but they need 4 members for a quorum, but things come up and it has become difficult to meet it. We had to cancel July's meeting, reschedule June's and an earlier special meeting in the year that we couldn't make quorums. We had the same issues last year. Surrounding towns have alternates and I think it is more convenient. Andrew Daniels stated that he is on the Board of Finance and that it is not an easy board. He asked if these alternates are going to attend meetings regularly. He stated that the current candidates should be responsible and attend meetings and we should not have alternates. What are the requirements for them? Dick Weingart stated according to the statute there are no requirements you have to attend

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every meeting as a regular member and the same would apply to alternates. I would expect the board would inquire about their intent, will they attend the meetings, etc. Even if not voting, there is a lot to learn, they could participate as member of the public. Other boards do this and it has worked. I don't think people are making excuses to not be there, they have real obligations. Andrew Daniels stated that his concern is an alternate who hasn't been there is voting on issues they don't understand. Gene Boomer asked how these alternates are appointed. Bill Rose said from the Board of Finance. Andrew Daniels also stated that we can't find 6 people, now we have to find 9? Bill Rose stated that he can see both sides of the matter. With time sensitive issues you need to have a quorum to get business done. Maybe if there is an issue, will a board member spend the time to fill them in, unless they are there on a regular basis? Bill Jenkins stated that it is a good idea. If the board knows someone isn't available they can call the alternates. That is how works with other boards. Jean Lambert offered that she advises student clubs at Eastern State University, they can only vote if they have attended 2 of 3 meetings. Matt Foster also stated that what if the BOF hasn't discussed an issue say from the last two meetings held, how are they to vote on them then? Irene Schein stated that she has been on the BOF as a Chairman and they didn't have a quorum problem. I think this is a false solution because we can't find the board members to be committed. Some members haven't shown for months. Even on Planning and Zoning she was an alternate but came to all the meetings. The votes are important and I think this is a bad idea. The Board of Finance is a vital board. Dick Weingart stated that these people were elected. Business can't happen if there is no alternative. Meetings get rescheduled. There is no administrative assistant to do this work, it is a problem. Matt Foster stated if you lose a board member, at least the alternates will be there to fill in with some experience instead of bringing in someone cold. John Smith agreed with Matt. It is an opportunity to bring in new members. It gives you a cushion. We are trying to keep business flowing and moving. Bill Rose agreed with John and wants to be optimistic we get someone to come forward. If alternates don't feel they have enough info to vote they can abstain. At least other business can get done. Dick Weingart made motion to move the question. Bill Jenkins seconded. All in favor. The moderator called for a hand vote. There were 9 yes votes and 3 opposed. Motion passed.

The moderator read Article 4 the proposed "Amendment to the Ordinance establishing the Recreation Commission," setting a quorum rule for the Commission, restructuring its responsibilities, and authorizing possible appointment of a Director of Recreation, and possible action to adopt the Ordinance. John Smith made a motion to approve the ordinance. Dick Weingart seconded. Discussion: John Smith stated the original ordinance charges commission with maintenance of recreation and facilities and over the years the sport and recreation programs suffered. The commission feels the maintenance of the parks should go to DPW through the direction of the Board of Selectmen and with the recommendation of the Rec commission. The commission will focus more on the sports programs. They need more of a bible on how to run these seasonal sports. Currently we are losing kids, depending on motivation of coaches in programs. We are

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losing sports programs, soccer, softball, because we need to get kids motivated. This would be the emphasis of the new Recreation Director, setting schedules with other towns, align coaches, etc. It will be a work in progress. Lisa Rose stated her concern is how the director position will be overseen. John Smith stated that is why BOS will set up guidelines. Lisa Rose, but we still need structure on the position. I would like to see specific structure, and where the money will come from. Bill Rose stated that the BOS should write a job description. Lisa Rose stated that we really need to have a number of hours attached to it. John Smith suggested it be a stipend and part time. Bill Jenkins asked what the recreation budget is for the year. John Smith said approximately \$15,000. Fund raisers have a special revenue account separate from the \$15,000. The \$15,000 is park maintenance. Right now an assistant is built-in the budget and that will go away. Bill Jenkins asked how different is this ordinance from original? Is Section II different? John Smith said yes. The BOS will be handling more of the maintenance now. Bill Rose said it has always been a grey line what has been a DPW job vs. Rec Commission job. Some of this DPW budget is used for Rec commission. If the Rec commission concentrates on sports instead, kids will stay interested. Bill Jenkins asked what the pay will be? Bill Rose stated we need to write the job description and figure out how many hours, etc first. I see it like a stipend and p/t position. John Smith stated that now our commission is motivated to create this position and making changes work. Dick Weingart offered that last fiscal year's budget was \$14,600 and \$13,120 went to field maintenance and development. Katie Lynch stated it seems that 10 members is a large commission. John Smith said that they looked at changing the member side, but it being after election it was easier to reduce quorum. Katie Lynch also stated that maybe in the future, 6 members, quorum of 4, with alternates is a better solution. The moderator called for a hand vote. There were 13 yes votes. All in favor. None opposed. Ordinance passed.

The moderator read Article 5 on proposed "Second Amendment establishing the Board of Directors of the Chaplin Senior Center," adding a third alternate member to the Board, and possible action to adopt the Ordinance. Bill Rose motioned to approve the ordinance. Gene Boomer seconded the motion. Discussion: Bill Rose stated it is an attendance issue, especially in the winter with the board. These alternates will allow them to get business done. The moderator asked if there are any questions. No further discussion. The moderator asked for a hand vote. There were 12 yes votes. All in favor. Motion passed.

The moderator read Article 6 to appropriate and transfer the amount of \$59,900.00 from account 10702 – Unrestricted Fund Balance to account 25100 – Elementary Education in fiscal year FY 2013-14. Lisa Rose motioned to approve the appropriation of funds. Gene Boomer seconded. Discussion: Bill Rose explained why the funds needed to be moved and reviewed the handout showing the breakdown of why funds are needed. Dick Weingart stated that Ken Henrici has been in touch with the BOF throughout this process to let them know of potential budget issues due to the unforeseen expenditures.

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They just didn't know the final number until the middle of July. There is a provision in the statute regarding the BOE to allocate money. This appropriation will have no impact on the minimum budget requirement. Next year it is \$83,000 more than the current budget. The moderator asked for a hand vote. There were 12 yes votes. All in favor. Motion passed.

The moderator read Article 7 to appropriate and transfer the amount of \$10,000.00 from CIP account 3900-undesignated to CIP account 3305.23 (3305.16)-Backhoe. Katie Lynch motioned to approve the appropriation of funds. Jean Lambert seconded the motion. Discussion: Dick Weingart stated there are inconsistencies on how some CIP accounts are set up. It is basically the same account the money is being moved to. Val Garrison will be working with the auditors on this. The moderator asked for a hand vote. There were 12 yes votes. All in favor. Motion passed.

The moderator read Article 8 to appropriate and transfer the amount of \$10,500.00 from CIP account 3305.20 (3305.13) - Equipment Replacement to CIP account 3305.23 (3305.16)-Backhoe. Bill Jenkins made a motion to approve the transfer of funds. Dick Weingart seconded. Discussion: Bill Rose stated that we found a better deal for a backhoe and need the funds appropriated to make the difference. There was a line item for attachments for the backhoe but the one we found came with them but for more money. This money has to be transferred to fund the purchase. Dick Weingart stated that once Bill knew it would be over he called me immediately and explained it. This was appreciated. At the end we got a good machine. The moderator called for a hand vote. There were 12 yes votes. All in favor. Motion passed.

The moderator read Article 9 to adjourn the meeting after completion of foregoing business. The moderator called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Jenkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gene Boomer seconded the motion. None were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.