

**TOWN OF CHAPLIN  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
March 23, 2026**

Approximately 31 electors and those authorized to vote at Town Meeting assembled at a special town meeting March 23, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. at the Chaplin Senior Center, 132 Chaplin Street, Chaplin, Connecticut. Also present were First Selectman James Harrington, Selectwoman Leslie Ricklin and Selectman Juan Roman, III, Board of Finance members, Chairman Richard Weingart and Vice Chairman Linkesh Diwan, Town Treasurer Diana Alvarez, Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien, Town Administrator Jordan Lumpkins and State Representative Doug Dubitsky. The following business was transacted:

1) The Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M., read the call and opened the floor for nominations to elect a Moderator. Selectman Roman/William H. Rose, VI moved/seconded to nominate Irene Schein. Hearing no further nomination, Irene Schein was declared Moderator and read each item on the call as it arose.

2) To discuss in public hearing and act on an "ORDINANCE TO EXPAND TAX EXEMPTION ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN TOWN DISABLED VETERANS OF CHAPLIN PER GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 12-81(83), AUTHORIZED BY PUBLIC ACT 25-168"

The Moderator called for a motion to adopt the proposed ordinance. Board of Finance Vice Chairman Diwan/Town Treasurer Alvarez moved/seconded. Town Administrator Lumpkins summarized the proposed ordinance, noting that it expands eligibility for the disabled veterans tax exemption and is required by the State to ensure previously qualified veterans remain eligible. The Moderator called for a vote to approve the ordinance with a result of 27 in favor, 1 opposed, zero abstentions. The ordinance passed.

3) To discuss and act on a "RESOLUTION OF THE DULY CALLED AND NOTICED TOWN MEETING OF THE TOWN OF CHAPLIN, CONNECTICUT AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE TOWN OF CHAPLIN AND THE TOWN OF MANSFIELD REGARDING SHARED TAX COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES"

The Moderator called for a motion to approve the proposed resolution. Board of Finance Chairman Weingart /Vice Chairman Diwan moved/seconded. Town Administrator Lumpkins read aloud the resolution and gave an overview. He explained that the town of Chaplin currently receives tax collection services from the town of Windham which recently has had a lot of changeover of employees, so Chaplin is exploring other options. As it happens, the assessor for Chaplin is also now the assessor for the town of Mansfield. Chaplin would like to partner with Mansfield for both tax collection and assessor services. If approved, this resolution would authorize the Board of Selectmen to finalize negotiations and enter into the agreement with Mansfield. The contract will be available for review at the Board of Selectmen meeting before it is approved. Northeast Connecticut Council of Government (NECCOG) is mentioned in the Resolution because NECCOG is Chaplin's Council of Government, and is the only eligible entity that can apply for the Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grant, which if awarded, would allow Chaplin to ease into taking on the cost associated with establishing the new regional offices of tax collection and Assessor as, in the first year, the grant would allow Chaplin to pay only 25% of operating costs for regional offices, 50% the following year and 75% the third year. The agreement will allow the Board of Selectmen to opt out of the agreement at their discretion. The tax collector will still come to the Chaplin Senior Center to collect taxes twice a year. The current Selectmen Harrington, as well as former Selectmen Roman and Rose referred to the current state of affairs in Windham as being in turmoil and pointed out recent issues with collection services.

The Moderator called for a vote to approve the resolution with a result of 27 in favor, zero opposed, zero abstentions. The resolution passed.

Resident and elector Ann (Kitty) Leshay of 381 Tower Hill Road, previous to the meeting, submitted a letter in support of both the ordinance and resolution.

4) The Moderator called for a motion to adjourn. Selectman Roman/Town Treasurer Alvarez moved/seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 P.M..

Respectfully submitted, Shari Smith, Chaplin Town Clerk