

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
Chaplin, Connecticut  
Thursday, March 6, 2025**

Members Present: Juan Roman, First Selectman; Kenneth Fortier, Selectman (remote)

Members Absent: Joe Pinto, Selectman

Others Present: Dick Weingart, Chair of BOF; Jim Randal, EMD; Ryan Perry, resident

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

1. **First Audience of Citizens:** Jim Randall inquired about cleaning up signs in front of Town cemeteries and requested a sign be erected at the New Chewink cemetery. First Selectman to speak with Gene Boomer, Cemetery Sexton.
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** *K Fortier made a MOTION to add the discussion and possible action on the Certification of Municipal Option-Alternative Motor Vehicle Tax Depreciation Schedule. J Roman seconded the MOTION. Agenda item to be placed under New Business (I). All in favor, MOTION carried.*
3. **Approve the Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting on January 2, 2025.** *J Roman made a MOTION to approve the Minutes of the January 2, 2025 Regular Meeting. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION Carried.*
4. **Communications and Reports**
  - A. Trooper Report – None
  - B. Board Members Reports:
  - C. Board of Finance Discussion: Board of Finance Chair D. Weingart reported that the 2023-2024 audit has been completed. Financially, the audit was clean, however the Town did receive notice of “material weakness” pertaining to the adjustment of entries at the end of the fiscal year. Three accounts related to the schools (student activity fund, parent-teacher organization, Boy Scouts) now must have QuickBooks accounts for revenue to pass through which will allow for one comprehensive place to monitor these accounts. J Roman questioned why the Boy Scouts were included under a Town account. D Weingart responded that the Boy Scouts have been using the school’s FEIN account number since don’t have their own and that this will be sorted out. The upcoming budget for FY 2025-2026 is currently being worked on with the BOF holding Special Meetings each Monday evening @ 6 PM. D Weingart stated that Grand List numbers and enrollment information from Parish Hill will have an impact on the budget.
  - D. Correspondence: J Roman received a letter addressed to the Board of Selectman from William Brown regarding fluoride in water systems. He noted that this topic does not apply to Chaplin since the Town has no municipal water supply
  - E. Building and Infrastructure: None
  - F. Treasurer Report: None

- G. Department of Public Works Report: None
- H. Chaplin Volunteer Fire Department Report: None
- I. Senior Center Report: The Senior Center reported having busy and productive months in January and February.

**New Business**

- A. Tax Collector Refunds: *J Roman made a MOTION to approve the following Tax Collector Refunds: ACAR Leasing = \$80.82; Matthew Yakis = \$80.87; Corelogic Centralized Refunds = \$1987.19; Richard Dubina = \$100. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried*
- B. All Pending and New FOI requests: J Roman reported that a new FOIA request was received on 1/22/2025 from Janis Farese, American Transparency: "Requesting an electronic copy of any and all employees for year 2024 (fiscal or calendar year). At minimum, each employee record should contain the employee's full name and gross annual wages." The FOIA was responded to on 1/22/2025. The Finance Office is currently gathering requested info.
- C. Appointments and Resignations: *J Roman made a MOTION to approve the following re-appointments: 1. Clint Slowik to the Chaplin Economic and Community Development Commission for a term beginning 2/2/2025 and ending 2/1/2028, effective 3/6/2025; 2. Linda Roman to the Chaplin Economic and Community Development Commission for a term beginning 2/2/2025 and ending 2/1/2028, effective 3/6/2025. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.*
- D. Discussion of upcoming CIP requests: The CIP Committee will meet again on Thursday, March 13, 2025.
- E. Update on Health Insurance costs: Town employees will be switching from Connecticare to Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield for FY 2025-2026 with only a .5% increase in cost.
- F. Discussion on the Windham Tax Collection Agreement Renewal: An agreement to retain the Windham Tax Collector for the years 2026, 2027, 2028 has been signed by the First Selectman. J Roman and D Weingart stated that Tax Collector Lisa Madden has obtained an excellent rate of tax collection and also provides the Town with timely legislative updates which has been greatly appreciated.
- G. Discussion of NECCOG Reval Contract: Tax Assessor Chandler Rose has stated that he is comfortable staying with the NECCOG Reval program. The CIP will be utilized to fund the next revaluation contract.
- H. Discussion and possible action on pay increases: *J Roman made a MOTION to request a 2.5% pay increase across the board for Town employees. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.*

- I. **Discussion and possible action on the Certification of Municipal Option-Alternative Motor Vehicle Tax Depreciation Schedule:** J Roman reported that changes have been made to the Motor Vehicle Tax formula with municipalities given the option to adopt a modified depreciation schedule for motor vehicles. ***J Roman made a MOTION to approve and adopt the 90% -20% option with the Office of Policy Management (OPM). K Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.***

**5. Old Business**

- A. **American Rescue Plan Funds:** The remaining Arpa Funds balance of \$112,196.51 has been earmarked for the completion of the new fire pond, a washer and dryer system for the firehouse, and the digitalization of the Town's land records. Any remaining funds not earmarked will be returned to the federal government.
- B. **Update for the construction of fire pond and dry hydrant:** Currently waiting for the weather to improve to finish the road portion. The fire department has been pleased with how the pond is drawing water. An ice rescue drill was recently performed at the new pond.
- C. **Discuss/updates on Bedlam and England Road Bridges:** The England Road Bridge structure has been launched over the Natchaug. The concrete deck and paving is expected to be completed no later than June 1, 2025.
- D. **Town Administrator Update:** J Roman reported that NECCOG has hired two individuals to cover different aspects of the Town Administrator's role. He is still waiting to see and review a contract.
- E. **Update on the Community Connectivity Grant Fund/Sidewalk Project:** The survey of the site has been completed and sent to the NECCOG engineer to draw up a project site plan. The proposed project site plan will be brought to a public hearing when complete.

- 6. Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion:** J Randall stated that the Chaplin Volunteer Fire Department has its own FEIN with the information available at the Fire Department as an option for the Boy Scouts. D Weingart responded that the Regional Finance manager has been contacted to assist. Ryan Perry respectfully requested that the Board of Selectmen reconsider the 2.5% pay increase and bump it up to at least 3% given current cost of living increases. He stated that he is concerned that the Town could lose talented staff at these rates. J Roman responded that the taxpayers are foremost in his decision making and that the requested employee contribution towards health insurance has been reduced to 10% from approximately 23%. J Randall asked if there will be a radio base station at the Town Hall for the 800 MHz radios. J Roman stated that it wouldn't be necessary. J Randall then stated that he never wanted the new England Road Bridge design and does not approve of it. K Fortier replied that the Town received multiple design options, and this design

was chosen as the most cost effective. He also stated that there were multiple public hearings regarding the England Road Bridge project and its design.

7. **Agenda Suggestions for next meeting:** None
8. Date, time, and place of next meeting (April 3 2025 at 7:00 PM, Chaplin Town Hall).
9. **Adjourn:** Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted by,  
Susan Welshman  
Administrative Assistant*