

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Chaplin, Connecticut
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025**

Members Present: Juan Roman, First Selectman; Joe Pinto, Selectman; James Harrington, Selectman

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Jordan Lumpkins, Shared Town Administrator; Diana Alvarez, Treasurer; Leslie Ricklin

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

1. **First Audience of Citizens:** Leslie Ricklin, Democratic candidate for Selectman, proposed that the 3 candidates for the Board of Selectmen have lunch with the Seniors at the Senior Center before the 11/4/2025 election. Dates were proposed; however, the dates that worked for all 3 candidates fell during early voting 10/20-11/2/2025. Early voting is held at the Ferrara Community Room (Senior Center) and candidates are not allowed to be within 75 feet of the polling place therefore the candidates will be unable to lunch with the Seniors at that time.
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** J Roman added to New Business: E) Continuation of health insurance.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** *J Roman made a MOTION to approve the Minutes of the September 4, 2025 Regular Meeting as corrected; J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.*
4. **Communications and Reports**
 - A. Board Members Reports: None
 - B. Board of Finance Discussion: None
 - C. Shared Town Administrator Report: Shared Town Administrator Jordan Lumpkins reported that he and fellow Town Administrator Mary Calorio, are continuing to meet with staff and various departments to review the budget process. When all interviews are completed, they will put together recommendations for all. The Town is still waiting for DOT District 2's approval of the final plans for the Sidewalk Connectivity Project (Phase I). The project can go out to bid once the approval has been received. The Town is also waiting to hear the results of the Phase II CCGF application which will allow the Town to continue with connectivity and accessibility upgrades at Garrison Park.
 - D. Correspondence: J Roman reported receiving an email from Windham Town Administrator Robert Zarnetske regarding their meeting held on September 30, 2025 to discuss the Windham/Chaplin Shared Services Agreement. J Roman and J Pinto both commented that no changes will be made in regard to the EMS agreement.

- E. Building/Infrastructure: The Chaplin Town Hall has received its new phone system with the Library/Senior Center and Fire Department set to receive their new phones soon.
- F. Treasurer Report: Treasurer Diana Alvarez reported that her submission for the Annual Report will be after the audit is complete. She has submitted a request to the Board of Finance to be added to Quick Books but has not heard back yet. J Roman asked her how the tax revenue collection was going. D Alvarez stated that she has not spoken to the tax collector recently, however, the Treasurer now has an extra duty each morning which entails viewing all of the checks which have come through that are not posted to the account and must be approved and entered manually. This is a result of the account having been compromised earlier and is now on a positive pay system.
- G. Department of Public Works Report: Paving on Pumpkin Hill Road is complete. Rails on a Pumpkin Hill bridge/culvert are rotting away and are now marked with caution tape.
- H. Chaplin Volunteer Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Joe Pinto reported that during the months of August and September the CVFD responded to 46 medical calls, 3 motor vehicle accidents and 5 mutual aid incidents. He also reported that the forestry truck has been painted and fitted with a utility body. New specs are being developed for a skid unit to be fitted.
- I. Senior Center Report: Please see attached.
- J. Public Library Report: Please see attached.

5. New Business

- A. Tax Collector Refunds: ***J Harrington made a MOTION to approve the following tax refunds: D L Peterson Trust = \$1,241.20; Richard P Haesche, Jr. = \$103.85; Richard H Parker = \$115.03. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.***
- B. All Pending and New FOI requests: J Roman reported that a FOIA was received on 8/20/2025 from Ryan & Alycia Salvas, Radical Roots Farm LLP, Canterbury, CT. Receipt of FOIA was acknowledged on 8/20/2025. J Roman reported that the request was primarily focused on activities through NECCOG and that NECCOG Executive Director Jim Rivers will be directing the reply.
- C. Appointments and Resignations: The Board of Selectmen accepted the resignation of Joshua Woodward from the Recreation Commission effective 9/17/2025 with regret. ***J Roman made a MOTION to approve the following re-appointments to the Inland Wetlands, Watercourses and Conservation Commission: Peter Kegler, Regular Member, 11/5/2025 through 11/4/2031; Doug Cates, Regular Member, 11/5/2025 through 11/4/2031; Michael Jenkins, Alternate Member, 11/5/2025 through 11/4/2031. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.***

- D. Discussion of Board Reports: Selectman J Pinto stated that he was disturbed to see that the Emergency Medical Director decided to spend \$15,000 from their special account on a new drone and not on something else greatly needed like a new generator for the Senior Center which is listed as an emergency shelter. As a result, he feels that all departments should be giving an account of their activities to the BOS. J Roman and J Harrington both agreed with the idea, and both felt that quarterly reports would be appropriate. Item is tabled until next month's meeting.
- E. Discussion and Possible Action on the Continuation of Health Insurance: J Roman is requesting a one-month continuation of his health insurance upon leaving the First Selectman seat in November. He becomes eligible for Medicare in January and wishes to continue his premium payment to provide coverage for the month of December. ***J Harrington made a MOTION to continue the outgoing First Selectman's insurance coverage for the month of December 2025. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. J Roman abstained. All in favor, MOTION carried.***
- F. A Special Thank you to Selectman Joe Pinto: J Roman took this opportunity to thank Selectman Pinto for his many years of service to the Town as well as his friendship, mentorship and leadership. The Board of Selectmen will miss him.

6. Old Business

- G. American Rescue Plan Funds: No news to report.
 - H. Update for the construction of fire pond and dry hydrant: J Roman received an email from contractor B Mott regarding low water levels in the fire pond which could be due to drought. He is working with agent J Theroux on a fix for water leaking at the berm. J Roman stated that the fire pond has yet to be turned over to the Town and is still under Heritage Builders (contractor).
 - I. Discuss/updates on Bedlam and England Road Bridges: England Road Bridge is totally complete. Town Administrator Jordan Lumpkins is looking into ways to manage financing the Bedlam Road Bridge.
 - J. Discussion of Building Inspector Shared Services: ***J Roman made a MOTION to continue with Joe Smith as Chaplin's Building Inspector as a 1099 contractor through June 30, 2026. J Harrington seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.***
- 7. Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion:** None
- 8. Agenda Suggestions for next meeting:** None
- 9. Date, Time and Place of next meeting:** November 6, 2025 at 7 PM, Chaplin Town Hall.
- 10. Adjourn:** Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM

*Respectfully Submitted by,
Susan Welshman, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman*

Senior Center Monthly Report

Date Sept 2025

Total number of guests for the month 856

Total lunches served for the month 433

Activities:

Breakfast 54

Fit & Fun 123

Mexican Train 4

Bingo 42

Mahjonn 79

Pickleball 43

Yoga 19

Memoir Group 10

Walking Club 0

Haircuts 11

Massage 8

Band Practice 19

Special Activities

Karaoke 15

Cell Phone help - 8

Foot Care 9

Music w/ AI 40

Eversource Presentation 23

Survivor Preparedness Class 10

Light Therapy Presentation 20

Chaplin Public Library Report for August/September

- 586 people in-person (open 18 days with average of 32 people per day).
- 92 Chaplin users, 30 from other towns.
- Circulation – 844(422 items checked out, 239 electronic checkouts).
- New phone system installed – can dial extensions to Town Hall.
- New Library Policies completed and approved by the Board at the September 15 meeting. ✓
- Reworked layout of museum passes on website.
- People came in to use Wi-fi Friday afternoon with outage.
- Added 3 new library cards this week.

Activities and Programs

- About 331 people attended in-person events. The Ice Cream Social was attended by 150 people
- Interim Director, Board members and Friends of the library staffed a well-attended booth at Chaplin Day.
- Book Chat September 19th from 3-4pm. ✓
- Linda Roman will present a program on Light Therapy on September 22 in collaboration with the Senior Center. ✓
- Will Hooper talk on Putting Garden to Bed for Winter/Prepare for Spring on Sept. 27th from 10-12pm. ✓

The first two weeks with the Interim Library Director were busy and smooth.

Submitted by,

Leslie Rickin, Library Board Chair