

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Chaplin, Connecticut
Thursday, February 5, 2026**

Members Present: Juan Roman, Selectman; Leslie Ricklin, Selectman

Members Absent: James Harrington, First Selectman

Others Present: Jordan Lumpkins, Shared Town Administrator; Dick Weingart, BOF Chair, Members of the Friends of the Library.

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **First Audience of Citizens:** None
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Tabled until next month's meeting.
4. **Communications and Reports**
 - A. Board Members Reports: L Ricklin reported that she and James Harrington attended the COST conference in January. She and James also attended a CCM webinar regarding the recently passed Housing Bill 8002.
 - B. Board of Finance Discussion: D Weingart, Chair of the BOF, reported he has received the October 2025 Grand List from Assessor Chandler Rose. He reported that the Budget process transition is going well and he is excited to see how the new process will look under the Town Administrator Mary Calorio. The Board of education will be reviewing their draft budget in the next week with Superintendent A Skarzynski reporting that 2 students have moved into Chaplin who will require outplacement Special Education Services.
 - C. Shared Town Administrator Report: Town Administrator Jordan Lumpkins shared his monthly report with the Board. Please see attached.
 - D. Correspondence: J Roman read out a letter received from the Friends of the Library and Chaplin Public Library dated January 29, 2026. Please see attached.
 - E. Building/Infrastructure: None
 - F. Department Reports: Monthly reports were received from the Public Library and from the Senior Center. Please see attached.
5. **New Business**
 - A. Tax Collector Refunds: None
 - B. All Pending and New FOI requests: None
 - C. Appointments and Resignations: J Harrington reported receiving the resignation of Justin Brodeur from the Chaplin Recreation Commission effective immediately.
 - D. Discussion and possible action regarding declaring the DPW 2007 Vermeer woodchipper BC1000XL as surplus and putting it up for auction on GovDeals.
J Roman made a MOTION to declare the DPW 2007 Vermeer woodchipper BC1000XL as surplus and place it on the GovDeals website for auction. L Ricklin seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.
 - E. Discussion and possible action on adopting a local option for disabled unemployable veterans: Tabled.

- F. Discussion of Town entity contributions to the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence Celebrations: Tabled.
 - G. Discussion of education in Chaplin: L Ricklin stated that since education makes up approximately 80% of the Town Budget, she feels that the Board of Selectmen should take the lead in discussing "the elephant in the room" i.e. the sustainability of Chaplin continuing to bear the largest percentage of RD 11 cost. J Roman stated that educating and engaging Chaplin residents on the ongoing education costs is a vital first step. He requested that this topic remain on future BOS agendas as Old Business.
- H. **6. Old Business**
- A. American Rescue Plan Funds: No updates.
 - B. Update for the construction of fire pond and dry hydrant: No update.
 - C. Discuss/update on Bedlam Road Bridge: No further information since the 12/12/2025 special meeting of the BOS.
 - D. Discussion on the submittal of Board Reports: Tabled until next month's meeting.
 - E. Discussion of Tax Collector Services: Tabled until next month's meeting.
 - F. Discussion and possible action on the adoption of the Chaplin Commission and Board Handbook: Tabled.
- 7. Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion:** Resident A Chuk stated that she was concerned about the Special Education outplacements that were mentioned by D Weingart and asked for clarification. D Weingart clarified that he was of the understanding that there could be an increase in cost due to two Chaplin students requiring out placement services. He strongly recommended that residents with concerns should attend upcoming Board of Education meetings and voice their concerns and questions there. A Chuk also brought up the failure of previous RD 11 study committees and the difficult process mandated by the State to dissolve a school district. She stated that she was advised by Susan Johnson that laws and procedures pertaining to studies may be altered if concerned citizens bring their complaints to the State Department of Education. D Sanchez inquired about the stone wall ordinance and when it could take effect. J Lumpkins explained that it is a process and more input is needed regarding the scope and intent of the proposed ordinance. A Chuk mentioned that the Department of Public Works did an outstanding job clearing roads after the recent snowstorm.
- 8. Agenda Suggestions for next meeting:** All tabled items on this month's agenda should be continued either at a Special Meeting or next month's Regular BOS meeting.
- 9. Date, Time and Place of next meeting:** February 5, 2026 at 7 PM, Chaplin Town Hall.
- 10. Adjourn:** Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Susan Welshman, Recording Secretary



To: Chaplin Board of Selectmen

From: Regional Town Administrators – Mary Calorio and Jordan Lumpkins

Date: February 5, 2026

Re: January 2026 Administrator's Update

Budget Evaluation

A presentation during a joint Board of Finance-Board of Selectmen meeting was completed and the Board members requested the Town Administrators begin providing direct support with the budget process, including managing the budget document. Town Administrators have met with administrative staff to begin managing the document. Administrator Calorio has begun implementing recommended changes to the budget document. The Administrators have scheduled a meeting with the Board of Finance Chair to review early adjustments and discuss implementation.

Community Connectivity Project

Plans have been authorized to go out to bid. Procurement will be initiated on March 2nd, and closed on April 1st. Bid review may take up to 30 days. Construction will be required to begin within 60 days of the contract's execution.

Arboretum Extension Project

The Arboretum Commission has contracted a landscape professional to draft a conceptual design for the Arboretum Extension Project. Administrator Lumpkins worked with the Commission and the contractor to develop a Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Urban Green and Community Garden (UGCG) Grant application that was submitted on December 17th. Decisions are expected in Spring 2026.

Helen Garrison Open Space Project

A DEEP Recreational Trails Grant application to support planning and construction activities was submitted on December 18th. Lumpkins also met with the CT Resource Conservation and Development Area to initiate a partnership in evaluating the property. They will work with the Town to conduct an environmental assessment of the property and provide a report free of charge. Additionally, Administrator Lumpkins will begin meeting with the newly formed Helen Garrison Open Space Advisory Committee once fully established.



Ordinance Review

The Town Administrators have begun researching procurement ordinances and will begin drafting an updated procurement ordinance for Chaplin that is more up-to-date and dynamic.

Administrator Lumpkins will be seeking Board Guidance on how they would like to proceed with a stone wall ordinance. Research has been conducted and there are a variety of approached that can be taken.

Former Post Office

A Brownfield Assessment Grant has been awarded. A meeting between NECCOG, the State, and the Town was completed on January 9th. The financial Assistance agreement is pending. A Licensed Environmental professional will be procured, and assessment should begin by Summer 2026. As part of the process, Administrator Lumpkins will work with the Town and contractor to evaluate future use of the property.

Bedlam Road Bridge Project

Town Administrators met with the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance Chair, and WMC Engineers (the consulting firm assigned to the project) to discuss next steps. The Board of Selectmen have directed WMC to begin the design of the bridge, and directed the Town Administrators to prepare procurement documentation that will solicit financial advisement services. The Request for proposal has been posted and will be closing on February 19th.

Economic Development and other Projects

Administrator Lumpkins has been working with the Air Line State Park and Trail (ALSPT) Alliance to develop a Z-Map promoting Chaplin. These Z-map feature recreational opportunities and businesses in Chaplin. Maps are expected to be printed any day now. Lumpkins also supported the ALSPT Alliance in a regional trail signage application.

Meetings attended

Calorio
BOF-BOS Joint Meeting
COST Conference

Lumpkins
BOF-BOS Joint Meeting
COST Conference
Board of Selectmen
Air Line State Park and Trail Alliance Meeting
ERTD Executive Board Meeting

January 29, 2026

Chaplin Board of Selectmen
Chaplin, CT 06235

Dear Selectmen:

The Friends of the Chaplin Library and the Chaplin Library Board of Trustees look forward to a celebration of America's 250th and Chaplin's birthday on July 4, 2026. In anticipation of this day, we would hope to engage with the Board of Selectmen and other town commissions, boards and organizations to begin plans for these two significant milestones.

We already have discussed some ideas to bring our community together in our shared love of country and community. One such idea would be a "Welcome" for the beautiful Ben Chaplin cupboard which is on display in the town hall. We would like to assist in offering a program with Andy Belisle sharing more about its past and the detailed research used to restore it. Many residents may not have ever seen this rare piece or know that it once belonged to the Chief Justice of the CT Supreme Court, or can appreciate its importance. We would love to work with you to perhaps have this as an initial 250th program.

We also have some other ideas to offer our community. Some are educational, some community service initiatives and some reflect our town's unique past.

Chaplin Public Library

Monthly Report for ____ January _____, 2026

December Statistics:

Number of days open ____ 15 ____

Number of patrons ____ 422 ____

Attendance at Events ____ 135 ____

Circulation of Physical Materials ____ 560 ____

Number of Chaplin Users checking out physical materials ____ 81 ____

Out-of-Town Users checking out physical materials ____ 17 ____

New Library cards: ____ 6 ____

January Events: Weekly Storytime

Weekly Ukulele

Monthly Book Chat

Other: Kitty Leshay Retirement Party

Juan Sanchez Victorian Naturalists Talk

Resident Michael Leahy Book Release/Author Talk

Library closures: Jan. 19 – MLK Jr. Day

Submitted,

Sandra Horning, Library Director

Senior Center Monthly Report

Date Jan 2026

Total number of guests for the month 620

Total lunches served for the month 281

Activities:

Breakfast 53

Fit & Fun 96

Mexican Train 7

Bingo 26

Mahjonn 40

Pickleball 29

Yoga 16

Memoir Group 8

Walking Club —

Haircuts 9

Massage 13

Band 9

Special Activities

Blood Pressure Classes 33

Blood Pressure Clinic 15

Cell Phone Help 9
