

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

Members Present: James Harrington, First Selectman; Juan Roman, Selectman; Leslie Ricklin, Selectman James Harrington, First Selectman

Others Present: Dennis O'Brien, Town Attorney; 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:** Diane Sanchez attended the meeting to inform the BOS of a grass roots, citizen led initiative to bring the celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence to life in Chaplin. She described many different ideas for programs which this group is hopeful of implementing in conjunction with the Town Hall, Public Library and the schools.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** *J Roman made a MOTION to accept the Minutes of the February 5, 2026 BOS Regular Meeting. L Ricklin seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried. J Roman made a MOTION to accept the minutes of the January 12 2026 Special Joint Meeting of the BOF and the BOS. L Ricklin seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.* J Roman noted that the Minutes of the 1/7/2026 BOS Regular meeting have not yet been approved. These Minutes will be presented for approval at the 4/2/2026 Regular Meeting.
4. **Communications and Reports**
  - A. Board Members Reports: L Ricklin clarified the numbers given by the Public Library in their report at the February 2026 BOS meeting.
  - B. Board of Finance Discussion: D Weingart, Chair of the BOF, reported that the BOF held a Special Meeting on 3/2/2026 in which Town Administrator Mary Calorio presented the preliminary proposed budget. He also discussed the importance of formulating the upcoming budget referendum question/questions.
  - C. Shared Town Administrator Report: Town Administrator Jordan Lumpkins shared his monthly report with the Board. Please see attached.
  - D. Correspondence: None
  - E. Building/Infrastructure: None
  - F. Department Reports: Monthly reports were received from the Chaplin Senior Center and the Chaplin Public Library. Please see attached.
5. **New Business**
  - A. Tax Collector Refunds: None
  - B. All Pending and New FOI requests: J Harrington reported that one FOI request was received on 2/27/2026 from Sophia Laurel Pack, State and University Benefits Consultant, ACA Solutions/Unify Well/Revive Health requesting an Excel spread sheet showing Town employee gross wages. Finance Manager Val Garrison is currently working on this request.

- C. Appointments and Resignations: J Harrington reported receiving the resignation of Kitty Leshay from her employment with the Chaplin Public Library. Appointments: ***J Roman made a MOTION to approve the appointment of Iwona Lanham to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term beginning 11/4/2025 and ending 11/6/2029. L Ricklin seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried. L Ricklin made a MOTION to approve the appointments of Ann Chuk as an alternate member of the Historic District Commission with a term beginning 9/1/2025 and ending 8/31/2023 and also Juan Roman as an alternate member to the Historic District Commission with a term beginning 9/1/2025 and ending 8/31/2030. J Harrington seconded the MOTION. J Roman abstained. All in favor, MOTION carried. J Roman made a MOTION to appoint the following to the Recreation Commission: Patrick Morse, Regular member for a term beginning 7/1/2024 and ending 6/30/2026; Wes Spencer, Regular member for a term beginning 7/1/2024 and ending 6/30/2026; Alex Spicer, Regular member for a term beginning 7/1/2025 and ending 6/30/2027. L Ricklin seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.***
- D. Discussion and possible action on Town entity contributions to the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. L Ricklin presented a template proclamation provided by the State of Connecticut resolving that the Town of Chaplin will engage in commemorative activities leading up to the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on July 4, 2026. ***J Roman made a MOTION to adopt the Town of Chaplin's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence Proclamation. L Ricklin seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.***
- E. Discussion and possible action regarding accepting a bid for the 2026 Chaplin Day Fireworks Display. ***J Roman made a motion to accept the bid made by American Fireworks Display LLC (as recommended by the Recreation Commission) for the September 9, 2026 Chaplin Day Fireworks Display in the amount of \$10,000. L Ricklin seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.***
- F. Discussion and possible action on adopting a local tax exemption option for disabled unemployable veterans. ***J Roman made a MOTION to send the Ordinance to Expand Tax Exemption Eligibility for Certain Disabled Veterans of Chaplin Per General Statutes Section 12-81(83), Authorized by Public Act 25-168 to the Special Town Meeting to be held on March 23, 2026. L Ricklin seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.***
- G. Discussion and possible action on a Eastern Highlands Health District opioid funds contribution. J Harrington described the program to the Board in which the Town of Chaplin would donate funds allocated to the Town by the

National Opioid Settlement Fund to the Eastern Highlands Health District. The proposed agreement and budget were reviewed and discussed. Tabled until next month's meeting.

- H. Discussion and possible action on the adoption of the Chaplin Public Library – Library Use Policy and Library Incident Report. L Ricklin, Library Board Chair, explained that the policy had been developed due to recent incidents at the Public Library and was created based off other similar sized town's incident policies. This policy was brought before the BOS because the Library Board wanted the BOS to be aware of this creation and also desired clarification as to the BOS approval. Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien stated that the BOS does not have approval or adoption authority. J Harrington thanked the Library Board for bringing this new policy to the Selectmen's attention. A discussion was had about training staff in the handling of difficult behaviors that may be encountered at Town buildings.
- I. Update on IT services review. J Harrington explained that the Town of Chaplin is currently in talks with Novus Insight, an IT management company specializing in the needs of municipalities, schools and libraries. He described deficiencies in Chaplin's cybersecurity and aging server as reported in a recent cybersecurity audit. Discussions with Novus Insights pertaining to a proposed service agreement are ongoing.
- J. Discussion and possible action to set a Special Town Meeting to approve a Resolution authorizing the Board of Selectmen to enter into a Mansfield-Chaplin Interlocal Agreement for tax Assessment and Collection Services. ***J Roman made a MOTION to send 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 TOWN COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES to a Special Town Meeting to be held on March 23, 2026. L Ricklin seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.***
- K. Personnel Matter: CONFIDENTIAL discussion regarding interlocal agreement contract negotiations; subject to be discussed in Executive Session per General Statutes Section 1-200 (6)(A), upon motion and vote of the Board of Selectmen. No Executive Session occurred.
- L. Discussion and possible action regarding interlocal agreement contract negotiations. None

## 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: Final design is in progress with funding options being explored.

- 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 of education in Chaplin: L Ricklin shared an article from US & World News Report ranking school systems nationally. Chaplin's rating is quite low. The role of the Board of Selectmen in addressing this issue was discussed along with ideas for communicating with school administrators.
  - G. Discussion and possible action on the adoption of the Chaplin Commission and Board Handbook: ***J Roman made a MOTION that the Chaplin Board of Selectmen adopt the Chaplin Board and Commission Handbook. L Ricklin seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.*** The Board of Selectmen and Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien thanked Administrative Assistant Susan Welshman for compiling the handbook.
- 7. Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion:** Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien suggested that discussion of the bifurcation of the Town Budget may have to go to Town Meeting.
- 8. Agenda Suggestions for next meeting:** Maintain discussion of town entity contributions to the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration.
- 9. Date, Time and Place of next meeting:** April 2, 2026 at 7 PM, Chaplin Town Hall.
- 10. Adjourn:** Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM

*Respectfully Submitted by Susan Welshman, Recording Secretary*



**NECCOG**

Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments

Ashford - Brooklyn - Canterbury - Chaplin - Eastford - Hampton - Killingly - Plainfield  
Pamfret - Putnam - Scotland - Sterling - Thompson - Union - Voluntown - Woodstock  
Results through Regionalism

### **Helen Garrison Open Space Project**

A DEEP Recreational Trails Grant application to support planning and construction activities was submitted on December 18<sup>th</sup>. 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**

Administrator Lumpkins has worked with the Town Attorney to develop a Veteran's Exemption Ordinance that is included in your March meeting packet. A Special Town Meeting must be scheduled to approve this ordinance.

Administrator Lumpkins has been finalizing a first draft of a Procurement Ordinance that he hopes to have ready for the annual Town Meeting. This will require legal review.

Administrator Lumpkins will be seeking Board Guidance on how they would like to proceed with a stone wall ordinance.

### **Former Post Office**

A Brownfield Assessment Grant has been awarded. The financial Assistance agreement has been finalized, and a formal contract is forthcoming. The Request for proposal is being prepared. 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 was posted and closed on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The sole proposal is being reviewed.

### **Meetings attended**

#### **Calorio**

BOF Joint Meeting  
CIP Meeting

#### **Lumpkins**

BOS Joint Meeting  
CIP Meeting  
Board of Selectmen  
Air Line State Park and Trail Alliance Meeting

# Senior Center Monthly Report

Date Feb 2026

Total number of guests for the month 586

Total lunches served for the month 343

## Activities:

Breakfast 44

Fit & Fun 91

Mexican Train 4

Bingo 23

Mahjonn 49

Pickleball 30

Yoga 17

Memoir Group 7

Walking Club —

Haircuts 10

Massage 9

Light Therapy 7

Foot Reflexology 8

Band 16

Cell Phone Help 1

## Special Activities

---

---

---

---

# Chaplin Public Library

Monthly Report for \_\_\_February\_\_\_\_\_, 2026

## January Statistics:

Number of days open \_\_\_ 16 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of patrons \_\_\_\_\_ 415 \_\_\_\_\_

Attendance at Events \_\_\_\_\_ 145 \_\_\_\_\_

Circulation of Physical Materials \_\_\_\_\_ 616 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Chaplin Users checking out physical materials \_\_\_\_\_ 78 \_\_\_\_\_

(Please note that a family of 4 checking out books might only use 1 library card and therefore only count as 1 user, even though multiple people in the family are reading the checked-out books.)

Out-of-Town Users checking out physical materials \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

New Library cards: \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_

**February Events:** Weekly Storytime

Weekly Ukulele

Monthly Book Chat

Other: Take Your Child to the Library Day

Virtual Cooking Class

Help host/promote Pollinator Talk

**Library closures:** Feb. 7 and Feb. 23 – Snowstorms

Feb. 16 – President's Day

Submitted,

Sandra Horning, Library Director