

**LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF CHAPLIN  
WARNING OF  
ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING  
MAY 9, 2016**

Pursuant to the previous notice and warning, the Annual Town Meeting was duly held on May 9, 2016 at Chaplin Senior Center, 132 Chaplin Street, Chaplin, Connecticut. There were approximately 26 citizens present. Also present were Matthew Cunningham, William H. Rose IV, Irene Schein, Shari Smith, Richard Weingart, Jean Lambert, Bruce Raymond and Cesar Beltran. The Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. and read the Legal Warning.

The Town Clerk called for nominations to elect a Moderator. William Rose nominated Irene Schein, seconded by John Smith. There being no further nominations Irene Schein was elected by acclamation.

The Moderator read Article 2 to nominate and elect in accordance with §10-46(b) of the CT General Statutes to the Regional Board of Education of Regional District #11 one member for a full term of three years to commence July 1, 2016; and opened the floor for nominations. Eugene Boomer nominated Stephanie Harrington seconded by John Smith. There being no further nominations Stephanie Harrington was declared elected to the Regional District 11 Board of Education.

The Moderator read Article 3: to nominate and elect five members of the Recreation Commission for terms of two years to commence July 1, 2016 in accordance with the Town Ordinance enacted May 12, 1976, as amended; and opened the floor for nominations. John Smith nominated Gary Bennett, David Stone and Matthew Foster seconded by Eugene Boomer. There being no further nominations Gary Bennett, David Stone and Matthew Foster were declared nominated to the Recreation Commission.

The Moderator read Article 4: Whereas the Town is applying for Local Capital Improvement Grant Funds: therefore, to resolve to approve the CIP plan for FY 2017-2021 (on file with the Town Clerk); Joseph Pinto made a motion to resolve to approve the CIP plan for FY 2017-2021 seconded by Helen Weingart. Richard Weingart gave an overview of the CIP plan. The Moderator called for questions regarding the CIP plan. Cesar Beltran asked how sure we are that we are expecting to get reimbursement from the state for the local CIP fund. Richard Weingart answered that “basically everything is up in the air until we have a budget”. He also stated that we have been receiving updates on the legislatures actions threw Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and the Council of Small Towns. This program is covered by bonded funds and it looks like nobody has talked about reducing funding to the bonding programs. William Hooper asked for clarification regarding how the programs are bonded. Richard Weingart answered the funds are bonded through the State. The Moderator called for a hand vote. There were 33 votes in favor, none opposed and no abstentions. The motion to approve the CIP plan for FY 2017-2021 carried.

The Moderator read Article 5: To appropriate for fiscal year 2015-2016 the amount of \$126,630 to account 25100-Elementary Education from the General Fund Balance. The Moderator called for a motion to approve the appropriation. Jaclyn Chancey made a motion to approve seconded by William Hooper. Richard Weingart gave details regarding the appropriation and stated that the CGS has a MBR (minimum budget requirement) provision that municipalities must meet with their education spending. The penalty of not meeting the MBR is \$2.00 for every one dollar that you are short on the MBR so it makes sense to follow the statute. In the prior FY 14-15 there were some extraordinary expenses at Chaplin Elementary, one of the prime drivers were two students that had high special education needs. One of which had to be out-placed. We ended up adding to that budget almost \$200,000. We received a letter from the SDE that Chaplin’s

shortfall in the MBR was 126,630. The Town filed an appeal on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April based on some provisions in the Statute. The Department of Education denied the appeal. Because of this the Board of Finance is recommending this appropriation. Christopher Komuves asked if there is any reason that we can't take the education capital improvement portion of the budget and move that into the education part for the year and reduce it a little bit. Dick Weingart answered that could have been done however he thinks that it will end up being the same amount of money being spent by doing it this way. The Moderator called for a hand vote to approve the motion to appropriate for fiscal year 2015-2016 the amount of \$126,630 to account 25100-Elementary Education from the General Fund Balance. There were 25 votes in favor, none opposed and no abstentions. The motion carried.

The Moderator read Article 6: \*To receive and approve the Annual Town Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 in the amount of \$7,920,841, as submitted by the Board of Finance and to appropriate funds required; (contingent on asterisk \*); \*At its meeting held on April 26, 2016, the Board of Selectmen voted, pursuant to CGS § 7-7, that item #6 of the Call of the Annual Town Meeting to be held on May 9, 2016 be submitted to a referendum vote at an Adjourned Town Meeting to be held Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at the Chaplin Firehouse, 106 Phoenixville Road (Rte. 198) in said Chaplin from 12:00 Noon to 8:00 P.M. The questions on the ballot label at said referendum shall read as follows:

1. "Shall the Town of Chaplin appropriate the sum of \$7,920,841 for the General Government and Education Expenditures for Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 as recommended by the Board of Finance?"

Absentee ballots shall be available as provided by law to persons applying in person at the office of the Town Clerk during its regular business hours. Copies of the proposed Annual Town Budget and all proposed Ordinances are available for inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Dated at Chaplin, Connecticut, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April 2016.

/s/

Matthew Cunningham

William H. Rose IV

Irene Schein

**CHAPLIN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Jacyln Chancey made a motion to resolve \*To receive and approve the Annual Town Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 in the amount of \$7,920,841, as submitted by the Board of Finance and to appropriate funds required; (contingent on asterisk \*); seconded by Lisa Rose. Richard Weingart gave an overview of the revenue side of the budget specifically mentioning an increase to the Grand List of about 2½% due to phase II of the Eversource / CL&P upgrade project to the power lines. Also mentioning a cap on the motor vehicles tax that was a provision in last year's State budget and that the State was to reimburse Towns. Lastly mentioning an increase in collections of back taxes. Regarding Expenditures / Government Operations, there is an increase of about 2.2%. Capital projects have dropped back a bit. The CES budget has increased about 2.94% or \$97,000.

The Moderator read Article 7: Public Hearing and possible action to adopt a proposed "Horse and Pony Property Tax Exemption Ordinance." The Moderator called for a motion to approve the Horse and Pony Property Tax Exemption Ordinance. John Smith made a motion to approve the Ordinance seconded by Helen Weingart. Matthew Cunningham gave an overview of the Ordinance explaining that this will save money for the Town by making the mailing of the Property Declaration form unnecessary. The Moderator called for a hand vote to approve the Ordinance. There were 34 votes in favor, none opposed and no abstentions. The motion carried.

The Moderator read Article 8: Public Hearing and possible action to adopt a proposed "Inland Wetlands Commission Ordinance Amendment" reducing Commission membership from seven (7) to five (5) regular members, effective November 7, 2017, and

3 alternates. The Moderator called for a motion to approve the Inland Wetlands Commission Ordinance Amendment. Eugene Boomer made a motion to approve the Ordinance Amendment seconded by Karen Carrancio. Matthew Cunningham gave an overview of the Ordinance explaining that the Inland Wetlands Commission Chair requested to have the membership reduced so as to avoid issues meeting the requirement for quorum. The Moderator called for a hand vote to approve the Ordinance Amendment. There were 30 votes in favor, none opposed and no abstentions. The motion carried.

The Moderator read Article 9: Public Hearing and possible action to adopt a proposed “Board of Library Directors Ordinance Amendment” reducing the Library Board membership from nine (9) to six (6), effective on November 7, 2017. The Moderator called for a motion to approve the Board of Library Directors Ordinance Amendment. Eugene Boomer made a motion to approve the Ordinance Amendment seconded by Jaclyn Chancey. Matthew Cunningham gave an overview of the Ordinance explaining the same need to reduce membership to avoid issues making quorum at the meetings. Sandra Horning stated that the Library Board is having trouble meeting quorum now and wondered if the reduction could happen sooner. Matthew Cunningham responded that the reduction had to coincide with the upcoming election in November. The Moderator called for a hand vote to approve the Ordinance Amendment. There were 30 votes in favor, none opposed and no abstentions. The motion carried.

The Moderator read Article 10: Public Hearing and possible action on a proposed “Ordinance delegating the authority of the Town Meeting to act on Interlocal agreements to the Board of Selectmen,” as authorized by subsection (b) of Connecticut General Statutes section 7-339, and proposed by NECCOG. Matthew Cunningham gave an overview of the Ordinance explaining that it would allow for the BOS as opposed to the Legislative Body to enter into agreements with NECCOG. He further explained that NECCOG at times asks for a Town meeting to approve Interlocal agreements and that it is often not fiscally responsible or possible at all. Also that Chaplin is the only one of the 19 NECCOG towns that does not have an Ordinance like this. This Ordinance will allow us to enter into the agreements and reap the benefits without having to hold a Town Meeting. William Hooper asked what the opportunity for “public comment” means. Matthew explained that any agreement that would be entered into with NECCOG would be presented at the regular BOS meeting and opportunity for public comment would be on the agenda. Helen Weingart expressed concern that the BOS agenda items may be vague. Matthew explained that it would be spelled out clearly on the agenda. Christopher Komuves expressed concern regarding the Ordinance and felt it was not tailored well and it was too broad. The wording “Interlocal Agreement” could be interpreted for all agreements and not only for NECCOG agreements. It was asked if the Ordinance could be modified during the Town Meeting and agreed that it could not be because it needs to be available for the public to view for a period of time in advance of it being adopted. The Moderator called for a hand vote to approve the Ordinance. There were zero votes in favor, 28 opposed and no abstentions. The motion did not carry.

The Moderator read Article 11: To adjourn the meeting after completion of the foregoing business. Eugene Boomer made a motion to adjourn seconded by Helen Weingart. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 P.M.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Shari Smith  
Chaplin Town Clerk