

**CHAPLIN BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**Chaplin, Connecticut**  
**Budget Public Hearing Minutes**  
**April 28, 2025**

Chair Dick Weingart opened the Budget Public Hearing at 7:00 PM. Board members present: Link Diwan, Linda Caron, Jeremiah Rufini, Victor Boomer, Bill Jenkins, Alternate Peter Haines. Others present: 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Juan Roman, Finance Manager Val Garrison, NECCOG Town Administrator Jordan Lumpkins, CES/BOE Chair Jaclyn Chancey, Superintendent Andrew Skarzynski, CES Principal Kevin Chavez, Business Manager Jobina Miller, RD11/BOE Chair Stacy Foster.

**3. READ PUBLIC HEARING LEGAL NOTICE:**

Dick Weingart read Legal Notice for Public Hearing, published in the Chronicle and posted on town website.

**4. REVIEW GROUND RULES FOR PUBLIC HEARING:**

Any questions should be directed to 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Juan Roman.

**5. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF BUDGET PROCESS; REVIEW KEY BUDGET POLICIES AND ASSUMPTIONS:**

Budget process includes: review of budget requests with some agencies coming in to discuss their budgets (Town Clerk, Registrars, Senior Center, Library, Public Works, Fire Department, CES), review list of grants Town gets from the state, try to keep the Town running with minimum increases to budget and taxes. BOF will meet after the Public Hearing to finalize budget for Annual Town Meeting.

**6. PRESENTATION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TOWN BUDGETS; AUDIENCE QUESTIONS:**

CES budget - 1.81% increase (below average of other districts across the state), working with other districts for shared services and programs for cost savings, reduction of 3 staff positions, cost drivers (contractual Salary, Special Ed costs, PreK, Fuel costs, deferred costs, Magnet School Tuition added back in), cost containment (consolidate classrooms for grades 1 & 3 split into 2 classrooms with reduction of 1 teaching position - created coaching role position), Special Ed teacher resigned – reallocated funds to hire BCBA, shared service with Hampton for Special Ed teacher. Enrollment projections the same (150 as of October 1<sup>st</sup>).  
RD11 Budget - Public Hearing on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Parish Hill Library to look at RD11 budget with 3.6% increase (total assessment to Chaplin increased 3.45% (\$262,000) - able to reduce with tuition from bringing in out-of-town students).

- Ann Chuk of Chaplin asked why Special Ed costs still going up this year (have 2 programs inhouse, more Special Ed students that need more services).
- Johanne Philbrick of Chaplin Street asked about total enrollment capacity for both schools compared to current enrollment (CES about 200, Parish Hill about 240 with some empty seats for both).
- Pat Pogmore of Chaplin thanked the Superintendent for very good presentation, asked about tuition for incoming kids (set at average per pupil expenditure plus indirect cost), and asked to explain MBR - Minimum Budget Requirement (can't go below what currently spent).
- Jim Randall of Canada Lane asked for clarification on Transportation, and asked about Travel (mileage for using personal vehicle).
- Stacy Foster of Chaplin expressed concerns about total percentage increase for RD11 last 5 years (has actually gone up 2.25% overall), and would like to see as many people as would like to come to Public Hearing on Monday at 7pm at Parish Hill to answer any questions.
- Link Diwan of Tower Hill Road asked for number of students coming in to Parish Hill and tuition (available at Public Hearing, doesn't require bringing in additional staff), and asked for number of students at Parish Hill (185-190).

Town Budget – Dick Weingart noted numbers are accurate for Parish Hill assessment to Chaplin (pg. 14 of handout), corrected increase in Budget for General Town Government since FY 2020-21 (pg. 3 of handout - \$196,561, approx. .49% and 0.80 mills), and corrected information published in Chronicle today (about 7.65% tax increase, value of mill at \$245,511, vote for May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup> Referendums at Fire Department).

- Link Diwan presented graphs for Chaplin's budget and expenses including: Total Town Expenditures – 4.36% increase (continues to go up with schools the largest portion and CIP decreased with no funding in the budget), Chaplin's share of RD11 assessment continues to increase (based on number of students); Grand List – source of all Property Taxes (Real Estate – largest portion, Personal Property, Motor Vehicles).
- Lisa Nadile of N. Bear Hill Road asked how much new businesses have contributed (property tax for Dollar General, everything for gas station).
- Scott Pagioli of Chappell Street asked about Xfinity lines (some poles owned by Frontier, some owned by Eversource with revenue collected from transmission lines).
- Dick Weingart addressed suggestion on Facebook for BOF to stop hiding things – detailed budget information (pages 40-72) and all budget documents are published and can be found at chaplintown.org.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Juan Roman noted many contractual services used to run the Town (try to streamline services to reduce costs, looked into recycling – cost money due to being done incorrectly).
- Ann Chuk thanked the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman and BOF for all their work, commented on less movement to cut Town budget than school budgets (attend RD11 Public Hearing for good sense of what to vote on - can't change Parish Hill budget once it goes through), asked about costs savings for recycling correctly (not much savings), and suggested posting update on Town website (stickers for trash cans available at Town Hall, Cassella recommends recycling 4 items - bottles, cans, jars, jugs plus paper and cardboard).
- Ryan Perry of Singleton Road asked for cost per student with Parish Hill the biggest cost, asked why Fire Department reduced almost \$8,000 – public safety important (reduction for current fiscal year, restored good portion for next year except Forestry Grant).

Significant budget increases include: General Government, BOF (Audit), Employee Benefits (Health Insurance), Public Works.

- Irene Schein of Miller Road asked to hear from any Board member opposed to this budget (Jeremiah opposes budget in current form – not sustainable, concerned with taxpayers in danger of losing their homes with only solution to raise taxes, concerned about same for next year).
- Johanne Philbrick expressed concerns with Town Agencies being cut at expense of education, and asked if way to combine 2 schools - move CES to Parish Hill supporting only 1 major school (Addition/Withdrawal of Grades to combine into 1 region voted down).
- Pat Pogmore asked if all 3 towns voted in Referendum for the Study (voted down, Superintendent thinking of ways to make things more efficient with shared services).

Welcome to NECCOG Town Administrator Jordan Lumpkins – grant expert advising the Town.

- Link Diwan noted request to add items to Town Meeting agenda considered by BOS (may need petition).

## **7. ANNOUNCE TIME AND PLACE OF FUTURE MEETINGS:**

RD11 Budget Public Hearing on May 5<sup>th</sup> followed by Referendum on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Chaplin Annual Town Meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup> followed by Referendum on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **8. ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING:** Public Hearing adjourned at 9:05 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Recording Clerk Kathleen Scott*