

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF FINANCE

Chaplin, Connecticut

Joint Special Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2026

Chair Dick Weingart called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Board members present: Link Diwan, Jeremiah Rufini, Victor Boomer. Others present: 1st Selectman James Harrington, Selectman Leslie Ricklin, Finance Manager Val Garrison, Town Clerk Shari Smith, NECCOG Town Administrators (Mary Calorio and Jordan Lumpkins). Absent: Mike O'Neill, Bill Jenkins, Alternate Matt Foster, Alternate Izzy Alvarez.

3. RECEIVE AND REVIEW TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT TITLED "TOWN OF CHAPLIN BUDGET REVIEW":

Mary Calorio presented Budget Review with observations and feedback from 1st Selectman, Department Heads, Finance Office and BOF (looked at other towns – BOS receives budget and makes recommendations to BOF). Recommendations to consider include: reduce use of colors and bolded text/numbers, remove outer lying year projection, provide summary of major impacts and cuts/adjustments (change in mill rate effect on taxes), incorporate graphic presentations of the information, incorporate mill rate breakdown attributable to each (Town, School, RD11), add brief description of what each department does (projects underway, new proposals), utilize Town Administrators and staff to manage budget document (assists in streamlining communication, provide full budget documents week prior to meeting - allows all members and public to digest information, no changes before meeting – allows public to provide comment or questions), consider adding layer of BOS formal review before it goes to BOF, one page expenditure summary.

Comments: Impressive analysis, good idea to put in hands of Town Administrators, makes sense to start budget with BOS (started with BOS in the past - too late for this year), would like to see graphics that shows trends (pie charts would get meaningful feedback from the public), appreciates work that went into review (including view of other towns), should make an effort to get through issues in as few meetings as possible (Administrators can reach out to departments and bring input back to the Board), likes one page budget summary, graphs don't go far enough (bar chart can reflect stark changes), supports change in process itself - have conversations way ahead of time instead of difficult last minute decision making, excellent presentation, Town Administrators will be great help (can implement quite a bit this year), easier process for minutes of budget presentation (can condense and use for Public Hearing).

4. DISCUSS POTENTIAL FOLLOW UP ACTIONS AND ASSOCIATED TIMELINE(S):

Dick Weingart noted review work very valid (lots of holes in the process – especially communication), interested in seeing if handing budget over to Town Administrators results in more efficient decision making, asked if Town Administrators could start work tomorrow (would begin work immediately with Finance Manager), and would like to be kept informed (changes would be very transparent).

Victor Boomer motioned that Town Administrators will assume responsibility for preparation and management of FY 2026-27 budget document, seconded by Jeremiah Rufini.

Link Diwan would like to move motion to BOF meeting.

Link Diwan motioned to table motion to be taken up at BOF meeting, seconded by Victor Boomer and carried with the following vote:

YES: Link Diwan, Victor Boomer.

NO: Jeremiah Rufini.

ABSTAIN: D. Weingart.

5. ADJOURN:

Link Diwan motioned to adjourn (8:10 PM), seconded by Jeremiah Rufini and carried unanimously.

***Respectfully submitted by,
Recording Clerk Kathleen Scott***