

CHAPLIN BOARD OF FINANCE

Chaplin Town Hall

Chaplin, Connecticut

Special Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2026

Chair Dick Weingart called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Board members present: Link Diwan, Jeremiah Rufini, Victor Boomer, Mike O'Neill. Others present: 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman James Harrington, Selectman Leslie Ricklin, Town Administrator Mary Calorio, Finance Manager Val Garrison, Treasurer Diana Alvarez, Registrar Gene Boomer, Registrar Gavin Horning-Kane. Absent: Bill Jenkins, Alternate Matt Foster, Alternate Izzy Alvarez.

3. SEATING OF ALTERNATES: None

4. FIRST AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS:

- Gene Boomer of 137 Bedlam Road noted not seeing last draft of Registrar spreadsheet before submission to the Board – noted Stacy Foster was asked to come in to help with Tabulators (normally works as moderator, and assists with programing – very knowledgeable with tech).
- Diana Alvarez asked that salary request be phased in for FY 25/26 and FY 26/27 rather than going out to FY 27/28 if Board decides to approve request (term ends 2027, increases for past several years averages \$5 week).

5. GUESTS: None

6. ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None permitted

7. REPORTS

- a. Board Member reports: None
- b. Staff reports: Finance Dept., BOE/CES, Tax Collector, Assessor/Treasurer: None

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular/Special meeting(s) – March 23, 2026:

*Victor Boomer motioned to approve March 23, 2026 special meeting minutes with following correction:*

Item 5b - correct spelling of FHMS (Fiscal Health Monitoring System.

*Motion seconded by Link Diwan and carried unanimously.*

9. CORRESPONDENCE: None

10. BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR FY 2026-27

a. Review revised Preliminary Proposed Budget document presented by Town Administrator M. Calorio, NECCOG:

Changes from last meeting: Revenues - (Investment Income reduction, RPIP Grant Revenue with transition to Mansfield for Tax Collection and Assessor); Reductions - BOS Salaries; Clerical Hourly (outside help for office coverage); Inland/Wetland Clerk (less meetings required); Treasurer (Salary); Library (TBD – could take from Cable/Internet, Electricity, Building Maintenance); Public Works (Office Supplies, OSHA Compliance, Electricity); Recreation (Sports Equipment); Senior Center (Maintenance); Volunteer Fire Department (error in amount for Phone, Grant, Building Maintenance); BOE (\$50,000 reduction); Transfer - \$85,000 to CIP for Capital Project (per request from BOF Chair) for total decrease of \$28,908 to the budget (would reduce mill rate from 33.660 to 33.530).

Proposed adjustments presented at this meeting: restore \$50,000 reduction to BOE (email received from Superintendent regarding recent outplacement for CES Special Ed student with costs estimated at \$140,000 – may have to use Non-Lapsing Fund), adjustment to RSD11 assessment (\$83,610 reduction –

original estimate came in lower), Registrars (\$7,725 reduction) for total reduction of \$41,335 - propose adding \$25,000 to Capital for total of \$150,000 and reducing \$16,335 from General Government.

- Jeremiah Rufini asked what impact would be to mill rate (would reduce mill rate to 33.457 with 6.6% increase in taxes).
- 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman reported \$62,000 savings for Ambulance Services from original request of \$135,000 with more savings likely if Dispatch switched from QVC – contract not signed yet (would reduce mill rate to 33.177 with 5.7% increase in taxes).
- Link Diwan asked about reduction in RD11 Assessment (estimate based on attendance modified when budget approved).

**b. Consider and act on FY 2026-27 CES proposed budget for Public Hearing**

**1) Review Supt. Skarzynski email of 03/25/26 re: new Special Education student outplacement:**

Discussed restoring \$50,000 reduction - Jeremiah and Mike in favor, Link suggests keeping reduction with 2 unfilled positions budgeted for the whole year and 2 teacher retirement positions that will be hired at lower rate (have Contingency), Dick reluctant to reduce BOE budget with Special Ed outplacement (Fund Balance not at optimum level - not projected to grow in next year). Consensus of Board to restore \$50,000 to BOE budget (Jeremiah would like to see mill rate reduced if legislation goes through for ECS).

**c. Consider and act on proposed reduction in Chaplin's FY 2026-27 RSD11 assessment, as it pertains to Chaplin's budget per RSD11 budget documents: Covered already**

**d. Consider and act on FY 2026-27 Town Agency budgets for Public Hearing:**

Treasurer's Stipend – discussed splitting increase with \$1,000 for FY 26/27 and \$1,000 for FY 27/28 (Jeremiah suggests adding \$2,000 this year with case well made that salary out of step from issue with previous Treasurer), Link suggests increase for other elected officials (Town Clerk underpaid – did not request increase).

***\*Link Diwan motioned to budget 5% increase for all Town Elected Official Stipends, seconded by Mike O'Neill.***

Motion also impacts BOS, Town Clerk, Registrars.

***Jeremiah Rufini called to question, seconded by Mike O'Neill.***

***Motion failed with following vote: YES: Link Diwan. NO: Mike O'Neill, Jeremiah Rufini, Victor Boomer.***  
Mike O'Neill would like to revisit at another time.

***\*Link Diwan motioned to increase Treasurer Stipend by 5%, seconded by Mike O'Neill and failed with following vote: YES: Link Diwan. NO: Mike O'Neill, Jeremiah Rufini, Victor Boomer.***

***\*Mike O'Neill motioned to accept FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget as outlined with additions of reductions and adjustments in email from Board Chair with total General Government budget of \$2,453,355 (includes reduction for Ambulance and contribution to Capital), CES budget of \$4,303,507 (restores \$50,000 reduction), RSD11 budget for \$3,707,634 for Total Combined Budget of \$10,464,496, seconded by Link Diwan.***

Victor Boomer suggests reducing CIP with concerns about equipment purchases - BOF approved purchases (no decision made yet on where \$150,000 goes).

***\*Link Diwan motioned to amend motion to increase General Government to \$2,454,355 with \$1,000 increase to #43100 Town Clerk Stipend in addition to cost-of-living increase for Total Combined Budget of \$10,465,496, seconded by Mike O'Neill and carried with following vote:***

***YES: Link Diwan, Mike O'Neill, Dick Weingart. NO: Victor Boomer, Jeremiah Rufini.***

***\*Motion to accept original motion with amended FY 2026-27 Total Combined Budget of \$10,465,496 carried with following vote: YES: Mike O'Neill, Jeremiah Rufini, Link Diwan. NO: Victor Boomer.***

**e. Consider and act on FY 2026-27 State and local revenue estimates:**

Follows Governor's budget with small adjustment to interest - consensus of Board to present to the Town.

**f. Review of PRELIMINARY FY 2027-31 CIP Plan and determine next required steps for approval at Town Meeting:**

Various projects total \$814,350 - (General Government - \$47,215, Public Safety - \$51,000, Public Works - \$606,135, BOE - \$110,000). 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman suggests reallocating \$35,000 for Museum in General Government to IT equipment per assessment to address security needs and server updates.

- Dick Weingart asked if transfer of IT to Mansfield can be made without purchase of hardware (need to assess), proposes transfer of \$150,000 to CIP without specified use (to be worked out by BOF and BOS), and asked if this CIP document can be used to qualify for LOCIP funding (can use this document with added column for proposed funding source – LOCIP, Grants, Bonds).
- Link Diwan asked about cellular tablets for Fire Station – suggests cellular hotspots at lower cost (consider removing - Committee hasn't met again to determine actual needs).
- Victor Boomer asked about CES needs with evaluation of school being done (expect revisions with School Construction Grant funding).

**g. Review content, format and production process for budget documents to be presented to the public, both electronic and printed:**

Complete budget document including schools (available online with printed copy at Town Hall and Library), PowerPoint slides (available in print), General Category Summary with estimated mill rate and percentage of tax increase.

**h. Review content and format of BOF budget message:**

Suggestions for message include: highlight significant changes, increased cost for Town Services compared to cost of living, pie chart comparisons (Revenues and Expenditures), impact of mill rate, percentage increase compared to other towns with similar demographics.

**i. Review content and format of BOF presentation for Public Hearing:** Covered already

**j. Other necessary budget business:** None

**11. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Consider and act on funds transfers and budget line additions/adjustments as requested:** None

**12. AGENDA SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT REGULAR/SPECIAL MEETING:**

- a. Public Hearing on FY 2026-27 budget
- b. Regular/Special meeting(s)
  - 1) FY 2026-27 Budget Workshop following Budget Public Hearing
  - 2) Appoint Auditors for FY 2025-26

**13. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR/SPECIAL MEETINGS:**

- a. Tuesday, April 7, 2026: RSD11 Budget Public Hearing @6:30pm (Parish Hill Middle/High School)
- b. Monday, April 13, 2026: Chaplin Budget Public Hearing & BOF Special Meeting @7pm (Senior Center)
- c. Monday, April 27, 2026: Chaplin Annual Town Budget Mtg. @7pm (Senior Center)
- d. Monday, May 4, 2026: RSD11 Annual Budget Meeting @7pm (Parish Hill Middle/High School)
- e. Tuesday, May 5, 2026: Town of Chaplin and RSD11 Budget Referendum @noon to 8pm (Fire Dept.)
- f. Monday, May 11, 2026: Regular Meeting and set Mill Rate for FY 2026-27 @7pm (Town Hall)
- g. Monday, June 8, 2026: Regular Mtg. & Approve Revenue Budget for FY 2026-27 @7pm (Town Hall)

**14. ADJOURN:**

*Jeremiah Rufini motioned to adjourn (9:00 PM), seconded by Link Diwan and carried unanimously.*

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Recording Clerk Kathleen Scott*