

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
Chaplin, Connecticut  
Thursday, October 6, 2022**

Members Present: Juan Roman III, First Selectman; Anthony Pinto, Selectman; Kenneth Fortier, Selectman

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Richard Weingart, Chairman/Board of Finance Supervisor; Susan Welshman, Administrative Assistant, Chris Bray, FD; Chandler Rose, Tax Assessor; Alexandra Burkhart, Citizen; James Randall

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm
- 2. First Audience of Citizens:** Chris Bray, Deputy Fire Marshal, Chaplin Fire Department, presented a request the Board of Selectmen to consider the possible purchase of battery powered rescue tools. He stated that the new tanker has no generator and will require battery powered rescue tools. C Bray presented list of proposed tools with their specifications and prices. A discussion of need, use and tool training followed. C Bray stated that the tools being requested for consideration total \$50,602. No further questions. The Board thanked C Bray for his presentation.
- 3. Additions to the Agenda:** *J Roman made a MOTION to move Old Business ahead of New Business for this meeting. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, Motion passed. J Roman made a Motion to add the Tax Assessor as item G under new business. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, Motion passed. J Pinto made a MOTION to add discussion of Fire Department Surplus Equipment as item H under New Business. J Roman seconded the MOTION. All in favor, Motion passed.*
- 4. Approve minutes of the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting on September 1, 2022** *J. Pinto made a MOTION to approve the September 20, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed. Approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen Special Meeting on September 20, 2022. K Fortier made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2022 Special Board of Selectmen Meeting. J Roman seconded the MOTION. J Pinto abstained. All in favor, Motion passed.*
- 5. Communications and Reports**
  - A. Trooper Report – J Roman read the Trooper Report out to the Board. Please see report attached to these minutes.
  - B. Board Members Reports: None
  - C. Board of Finance Discussion: Dick Weingart reported that it has been a quiet time for the Board of Finance, however, the calendar for the Chaplin Town Budget Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 will begin at

the end of October. D Weingart reported that the Town Audit had begun. He stated his concern that a current list of the Town's fixed assets and depreciation has not been maintained and would like to explore creating a current list. D Weingart reported that the Board of Finance has begun discussion of the Capital Improvement Plan and would like to develop, with the Selectmen's input, a clear process of establishing CIP priorities. D Weingart passed out draft calendar of the upcoming Budget Process.

- D. Correspondence: None
- E. Building/Infrastructure: None
- F. Treasurer Report: None
- G. Department of Public Works Report: J Roman read out DPW Report written by Dave Stoney, DPW Supervisor. Please see report attached to these minutes.

## 6. **Old Business:**

- A. American Rescue Plan Funds: The Board of Selectmen reviewed the current proposal from Gordian/Millennium Builders, Inc for a new HVAC system at the Senior Center/Library as well as a previous proposal for the HVAC system submitted by Action Air. *J Roman made a MOTION to accept the Gordian/Millennium Builders, Inc. proposal as currently proposed. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. Discussion:* J Pinto stated that he was absolutely against approving the proposal from Gordian/Millennium Builders, Inc. and preferred to have an engineer hired by the Town to develop specs to be put out to bid. J Pinto reviewed specific parts of the proposal which he was uncomfortable with and had no confidence in the company after recent conference call with the company and builders. *J Roman withdrew the MOTION.* J Roman stated that he wanted to see Board on the same page. J Pinto stated that he would like to research mechanical engineers for next month's meeting. *J Roman made a MOTION to have the Town hire a mechanical engineer to design new HVAC System for the Senior Center/Library. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, Motion carried.*
- B. COVID 19: None
- C. All Pending and new FOI Requests: None
- D. USDA Grant-Purchase of a new Fire Truck. J Pinto reported that the new fire truck will arrive Monday, October 10, 2022 at 6 pm. The Chronicle will be writing an article about it. The new truck should be fully on-line in a couple of months.
- E. Discuss updates on Bedlam and England Road Bridges: J Roman reported that breaking ground for the England Road Bridge project is scheduled to occur in April 2024. Up front funds to cover upfront costs will be reimbursed by State. J Roman hopes to bring the transfer of funds from England Bridge to the Bedlam Bridge Project to a Town Meeting for a vote since the Bedlam Road Bridge is in greater need of more immediate

attention. J Roman to meet with consultant from MWC Consulting to discuss learning about funding resources.

- F. Discuss Electronic Sign Reimbursement: The First selectman's Assistant and Finance Manager have sent all current expenses to Kimberly Zulick for review. Have not received a reply.

**7. New Business:**

- A. Tax Collector Refunds: None
- B. Appointments and Resignations: J Roman reported the resignation of Catherine Dietrichsen from the Senior Center Board of Directors and Dawn Gilbert from an alternate position on the Senior Center Board of Directors. *J Pinto made a MOTION to approve the appointment of Amie Kraemer to the Chaplin Recreation Commission by Chair Dave Stone. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, Motion carried. K Fortier made a MOTION to accept the appointment of Heather Perry to the Chaplin Elementary School Board of Education to fill a vacancy until 2023 election. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried. J Pinto made a MOTION to accept the appointment of Dawn Gilbert as a Regular member of the Senior Center Board of Directors by Chair Irene Schein. J Roman seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried. K Fortier made a MOTION to accept the Appointment of Joyce St. Lawrence to the Senior Center Board of Directors as an Alternate member by Chair Irene Schein. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.*
- C. Discussion and possible action on requested spay/neuter fee reimbursement. Alexandra Burkhart was present and explained to the Board of Selectman the difficulty she experienced with NECCOG Animal Services in trying to get a colony of feral cats in her neighborhood spayed/neutered. She submitted documentation as to the growth of the colony over the time that NECCOG did not respond. A Burkhart found an animal rescue which worked with the Humane Society in Springfield, MA. After being taught how to trap the cats, she was able to bring them to Springfield for the surgeries. A Burkhart was asked by the rescue to pay for two of the cats which she did. *J Roman made a MOTION to reimburse Alexandra Burkhart \$170 for the spay/neuter of two feral cats. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.* The Board of Selectmen agreed that they are concerned that NECCOG is not providing the Animal Services that the Town pays them for. The Board will review this further.
- D. Discussion of Appointment to the Eastern Highlands Health District: J Roman stated that Chaplin has a vacancy on the EHHD Board that needs to be filled. J Pinto suggested sending out a town-wide Google Group email requesting if any residents may be interested.
- E. Discuss EV Stations: J Roman reported incentives are being offered by many organizations for the purchase of an Electric Vehicle Charging

Stations. J Pinto and K Fortier felt that the Town was too small and that it shouldn't be a priority at this time.

- F. Discussion of designating the Town Hall as a Safe Space for transactions. J Roman expressed a wish to designate either the Town Hall or the Fire Department as a safe zone for monetary or custodial transactions. J Pinto stated that there is still a security system that can be installed with cameras for this use. All agreed that this was a good idea worth pursuing.
- G. Tax Assessor Request: Town of Chaplin tax Assessor, Chandler Rose, was present to request the Board of Selectmen's opinion about upgrading the current appraisal Software from Vision 6.5 to Vision 8. The cost of the upgrade is \$10,000 with different payment options and incentives available. Chandler Rose reports that Chaplin is that last local town to upgrade to Vision 8. He asked that the Board consider their comfort level and, if comfortable, consider the most appropriate payment option in conjunction with the Board of Finance. The Board gave C Rose the go-ahead to schedule upgrade pending BOF review.
- H. Discussion and possible action for adding surplus Fire Department Equipment to the Town's Surplus Equipment List. *J Pinto made a MOTION to add four sets of old gear, 2600' of 4" hose and one 4400-Watt generator to the list of the Town's Surplus Equipment List. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.*

**8. Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion:** None

**9. Agenda Suggestions for next meeting:** J Pinto requested an Executive Session be added to the agenda as well as a discussion and possible action concerning the Hurst battery powered rescue tools outlined by Chris Bray.

**10. Date, time, and place of next meeting (November 3, 2022, at 7:00pm, Chaplin Town Hall).**

**11. Adjourn:** *J. Pinto made a MOTION to adjourn at 9:40 pm. K. Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.*

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Susan Welshman  
Administrative Assistant*