

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Chaplin, Connecticut
Thursday, April 6, 2023**

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

Members Absent: Kenneth Fortier, Selectman

Others Present: Richard Weingart, Chairman/Board of Finance

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm
- 2. First Audience of Citizens:** None
- 3. Additions to the Agenda:** J Roman requested the following items be added to the agenda under New Business: F) Review of Building Inspection Services Contract with the Town of Windham for 2023-2026; G) Discussion and possible action concerning an Ordinance for the Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Committee H) Discussion of Town Manager.
- 4. Approve minutes of the Board of Selectmen Regular meeting on March 2, 2023; Approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting and approve the Minutes of the March 27, 2023 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting. *J. Roman made a MOTION to approve the March 2, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes with correction. J. Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed. J Roman made a MOTION to approve the Minutes of the March 21, 2023 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting with correction. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed. J Roman made a MOTION to approve the Minutes of the March 27, 2023 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting as submitted. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.***
- 5. Communications and Reports**
 - A. Trooper Report – TFC Shaun Tucker submitted statistics collected between the dates of 03/01/2023 and 03/31/2023. See attached report.
 - B. Board Members Reports:
None
 - C. Board of Finance Discussion: Board of Finance Chair Dick Weingart announced that the Public Hearing for the Annual Town Government and Elementary School Budget proposals will take place on April 24, 2023 at 7PM in the Chaplin Senior Center. The budget process is nearing completion with the BOF reviewing agency submitted budget proposals. D Weingart reported that the 2021-2022 Annual Report has been completed with thanks to all who helped in its completion. The Ad-Hoc Audit RFP Committee received two bids and will be setting up follow up meetings with the bidders for review and questions. The auditor is to be named by the end of May. Funding from the England Road Bridge project transfer to

the Bedlam Road Bridge project will go to the Town Meeting for public vote.

- D. Correspondence: Email correspondence from Alyssa Browning in support of the Chaplin Library as a valuable resource. (See attached). Email correspondence from Bill Rose dated April 5 2023 regarding the Chaplin Museum. (See attached).
- E. Building/Infrastructure: J Roman stated that the proposal received from Gordian for a new HVAC System at the Firehouse was too high and he would like to put the project out to bid. J Pinto agreed.
- F. Treasurer Report: None
- G. Department of Public Works Report: None
- H. Chaplin Volunteer Fire Department Report: Chief Joe Pinto reported that, since 1/1/2023, the CVFD has attended 70 medical calls, 10 fire related calls, 5 car accidents and one drill with the Tolland Dive Team.

6. New Business

- A. Tax Collector Refunds: None
- B. Appointments and Resignations: ***J Roman made a MOTION to approve the appointment of Pat Pogmore (U) to the Recreation Commission for a term beginning 7/1/2022 and ending 6/30/2024. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.***
- C. Discussion and possible action regarding the purchase of a new port-a-potty for Garrison Park: Discussion tabled until next month's meeting.
- D. Discussion and possible action regarding the purchase of a new tent for Garrison Park: J Roman stated that it is more efficient to have a tent belonging to Garrison Park as opposed to moving the tent from the Senior Center for events. The new tent will be the same size as the one at the Senior Center. ***J Roman made a MOTION to accept the purchase of a new tent to be used at Garrison Park. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.***
- E. Discussion and possible action regarding adding the moving of the Town Museum to the agenda of the Town Meeting: J Roman opened the floor to Joanne Philbrick for comment. J Philbrick stated that she was delighted that attention is being given to the Museum, but she feels that the question should not be about moving the Museum, rather it should be a question of whether the residents want a Town Museum. J Roman encouraged J Philbrick to draft and submit wording to be used in the vote at the Town Meeting. J Philbrick also expressed a wish to speak about the Museum at the Town Meeting if she is in the area on that evening. J Roman and J Pinto enthusiastically agreed. ***J Roman made a MOTION to add the issue of the Town Museum to the agenda for the Annual Town Meeting. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.***

- F. Review of Building Inspection Services Contract with the Town of Windham for 2023-2026. J Roman reported an increase of only \$3 and that online permitting will be available soon. J Pinto agreed that J Roman should sign the agreement.
- G. Discussion and possible action concerning an Ordinance for the Bicentennial Arboretum Committee: Draft of Ordinance was reviewed. (See attached). ***J Roman made a MOTION to accept the Ordinance as written to be presented at the May 8, 2023 Annual Town Meeting. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.***
- H. Discussion of Town Manager: J Pinto that a Town Manager could possibly oversee the day-to-day operations of the Town and oversee the Department of Public Works. A Board of Selectmen would still exist and would make important Town decisions. A Town Manager could also possibly do extensive Grant work for the Town. J Roman expressed concern about affording a salary and costs for a Town Manager. The topic will remain open for discussion.

7. Old Business

- A. American Rescue Plan Funds: J Roman reported that a draft proposal for fire ponds is being developed and will use ARPA funds for funding.
- B. All Pending and New FOI Requests: One pending FOI request from American Transparency being discussed.
- C. Discussion of Emergency Service TV Monitor: Tabled until next month's meeting.
- D. Discussion and Possible Action for the Purchase of Hurst Battery Powered Rescue Tools for the New Firetruck: An RFP from Firematic was approved at the BOS Special Meeting on 3/21/2023. The tools were ordered and should be arriving in 6-8 weeks.
- E. USDA Grant-Purchase of a New Fire Truck: The Town of Chaplin has received the USDA Grant reimbursement in the amount of \$91,400.
- F. Discuss Updates on Bedlam Bridge and England Road Bridge WMC Consulting Engineers were awarded the contract for engineering services for the Bedlam Road Bridge Project at the BOS Special Meeting on 3/21/2023.
- G. Discuss Electronic Sign Re-imburement status: J Roman sent an email requesting update on 4/5/2023.

8. Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion:

Jim Randall expressed concern about the Town Museum decision being voted on at the Annual Town Meeting as not all in Town can attend. He would rather see it go to referendum and discussion occurred about how to correctly word the question for a ballot. D Weingart suggested using the wording of the Budget going to referendum as a

template. BOS will address the wording for the Warning of the Annual Town Meeting at a BOS Special Meeting to be scheduled no later than April 26, 2023.

9. **Agenda Suggestions for next meeting:** Discussion of Town Manager and the purchase of a new port-a-potty for Garrison Park will be continued. Old Business item E) USDA Grant-Purchase of a new firetruck can be removed from the agenda.
10. **Date, time, and place of next meeting (May 4, 2023, at 7:00pm, Chaplin Town Hall).**
11. **Adjourn: *J. Pinto made a MOTION to adjourn at 8:02 pm. J Roman seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION passed.***

*Respectfully Submitted by,
Susan Welshman
Administrative Assistant*

**TOWN OF CHAPLIN
RESIDENT STATE TROOPER
March 2023**

TO: Juan Roman; First Selectman
FROM: TFC Shaun Tucker #1237

Sir,

The following reflect the statistics collected between the dates of March 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023:

	Resident Trooper	CSP (all except RT)	TOTAL
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	18	44	62
Traffic Accident – No Injury	0	1	1
Traffic Accident – With Injury	0	0	0
Reportable Incidents	2	9	11
Traffic Stops	4	4	8

Notable events/incidents:

During the month of March an incident occurred at Parish Hill Middle/High School which led to a lock down. The incident was investigated and one juvenile was referred to the Juvenile Review Board. An after action review was conducted between school officials, town officials, and law enforcement. The review was beneficial for all.

Respectfully,

TFC Shaun Tucker #1237

“Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum” Commission

Ordinance

Pursuant to sections 7-148, 7-131 and 23-60 of the Connecticut General Statutes the following ordinance is hereby enacted.

1. The collection of trees previously planted at Edward Garrison Park for the purpose of outdoor recreation, commemoration of the Town of Chaplin 2022 Bicentennial celebration and public education about indigenous shade trees shall be known as the “Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum”.
2. A Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission shall be established as a public commission authorized by General Statutes section 7-148 and appointed by the Board of Selectmen to have primary responsibility for the care, maintenance, and removal of all trees and shrubs identified by the Town of Chaplin Tree Warden to be included in the Arboretum along with the roots and grounds directly under the canopies of all trees and shrubs so identified by the Tree Warden.
3. Said Commission shall consist of three members to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen immediately after the effective date of this Ordinance if it is enacted at the Annual Town Meeting in May of 2023, with one member to serve for three years, one member to serve for two years and one member to serve for one year from appointment. After each of said terms expires, the Board of Selectmen will appoint members for terms of three years each.
4. The Commission shall work together in cooperation with the Town Tree Warden to share and fulfill the responsibilities of both the Commission and the Tree Warden pursuant to sections 7-131 and 23-60 of the General Statutes within the Arboretum.
5. The Commission and Tree Warden shall meet at least once in each calendar quarter beginning in June of 2023, with 2 Commission members constituting a quorum.
6. A sum of \$2,000 for the first year of the Commission’s existence shall be assigned to the Commission from within appropriate line items within the Annual Budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 by proper Town means and authorities to the care and maintenance of the trees and grounds within the tree canopies.

Susan Welshman

From: Browning, Alyssa <alyssa_browning@alumni.brown.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 9:33 AM
To: Juan Roman III
Cc: Johanna Wolfe; Susan Welshman
Subject: A note to be shared with the Board of Selectmen

Good morning,

I just wanted to take the time to express my appreciation and gratitude for the Chaplin Public Library and its librarians, Ms. Sandra and Ms. Angi. We visit Chaplin's library every week and it is a tremendous resource for my family.

My 2-year-old daughter bounces with excitement every Wednesday, the day she knows we'll return our library books and select new ones to bring home. Picture books may only take minutes to read, but they frequently cost more than adult paperbacks (sometimes even hardcovers!). Because of the library, we bring home new stories with unknown people, places, and experiences to explore, all for free. That's an amount that fits the family budget!

We read these books multiple times a day all week long, sometimes beginning again as soon as we finish the last page. I believe I would lose my mind if these were not some of the most beautiful stories and illustrations I've ever encountered. Sandra and Angi keep their thumbs on the pulse of literature. They read reviews and research to curate the library's collection for their patron's needs. I'm constantly impressed with how much they accomplish with so little.

Besides the physical resource of books, Chaplin's Library has truly become a social support for us. With a toddler too young for Pre-K, the weekly preschool storytimes are a lifeline. My daughter gets to make friends that will later be classmates. They sit and listen, do art, and play with one another while I get the chance to talk with parents from Chaplin and the surrounding areas. (I have learned about so many community events during these chats!) These are wonderful moments and they are all the more appreciated because they are free rather than the hundreds of dollars it costs to join community centers or sign up for a season of classes. Ms. Sandra and Ms. Angi provide such a valuable resource for the community.

I hope I have conveyed how much we value Chaplin's library and how grateful we are for it. Maybe I'll even see you at one of the many special events they organize! As the time to look at our town budget approaches, I hope you look favorably on the library and the fabulous work they are doing there.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Alyssa Browning-Gray

Susan Welshman

From: William Rose <billcamsuperline@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 10:46 AM
To: Juan Roman III; Kenneth Fortier; joepinto2@charter.net
Cc: Dick Weingart; Susan Welshman
Subject: BOS meeting 4.6.23 correspondence

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To: The Chaplin BOS
Gentlemen,

I am writing in regards to the long contemplated relocation of the Chaplin museum/welcome center. This subject seems to have gone cold for the current administration. I have received a great deal of enthusiasm from citizens supporting its relocation. I have repeatedly been told that the main barrier for this to happen is money. This attitude is putting the cart before the horse. In my opinion the first step is to revisit this topic at the May Town meeting and get a consensus of public opinion in the positive or negative before worrying about the cost. If there is no support for the project then abandon the thought process.

If the residents want this to happen the money will come one way or the other, even if it's in small increments. We already have money earmarked in CIP for this which is the first step in the process. With seed money in place from CIP it allows for the pursuit of grant money, fund raising and even surplus budget transfers. I personally support the move as it will protect an important part of Chaplin's history and act as an educational center for many citizens as well as an economic driver to bring visitors to our town. In addition, doing nothing is to condemn the building to fall into disrepair and eventually lose it altogether to neglect. A vacant building is susceptible to deterioration, inclement weather, vandalism and even fire. But if we start, however small to save this part of our history it would become a viable asset to the Town instead of the burden and liability it currently is.

I quote Johann Philbrick when I say,
"Move it or lose it!"

Thanks, Bill Rose