

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Chaplin, Connecticut
Thursday, May 1, 2025**

Members Present: Juan Roman, First Selectman; Kenneth Fortier, Selectman (remote);
Joe Pinto, Selectman

Members Absent:

Others Present: Dick Weingart, Chair of BOF; Jordan Lumpkins, Town Administrator;
Allan Cahill, First Selectman, Town of Hampton

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

1. **First Audience of Citizens:** None
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** *J Pinto made a MOTION to add the following to New Business (H): Discussion and possible action on an application to the Board of Education of Regional School District 11 for institution of the procedure for the dissolution of Regional School District 11. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.*
3. **Approve the Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting on March 6, 2025 and April 3, 2025.** *K Fortier made a MOTION to accept the Minutes of the 3/6/2025 BOS meeting as presented. J Roman seconded the MOTION. J Pinto abstained. All in favor, MOTION carried. K Fortier made a MOTION to accept the Minutes of the April 3, 2025 BOS meeting as presented. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.*
4. **Communications and Reports**
 - A. Trooper Report – None
 - B. Board Members Reports: None
 - C. Board of Finance Discussion: Board of Finance Chair D. Weingart reported that the Public Hearing of the Board of Finance to present the Preliminary Proposed Budget for FY 2025-2026 went well on Monday, April 28, 2025. J Pinto commented that the visuals used during the hearing were very helpful. D Weingart has initiated a conversation with the First Selectman regarding changing the date of future Annual Town meetings to allow for one referendum to be held for voting on the Town Budget and RD 11 Budget. He stated that the Board of Finance has appointed Hoyt, Filippetti & Malaghan, LLC to conduct the 2024-25 Town audit.
 - D. Correspondence: None
 - E. Building and Infrastructure: Town Administrator, Jordan Lumpkins, reported that since the Town of Chaplin has not applied for Urban Act or STEAP funding in a number of years, it would be a good time to submit an application for infrastructure funds relating to repairs to Tower Hill Road, Lynch Road and Nutmeg Lane. Two million dollars is being applied for. J Lumpkins stated that it would be helpful to the application process if the Selectmen make a statement of support for the application process. He

also reported looking at the Old Post Office building and brainstorming ideas for future use through public/private partnerships. ***J Roman made a MOTION to endorse the Urban Act application being submitted by Town Administrator Jordan Lumpkins requesting funding for infrastructure repairs to Tower Hill Road, Lynch Road and Nutmeg Lane. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.***

- F. Treasurer Report: None
- G. Department of Public Works Report: J Roman explained that the DPW is interested in selling the cut logs from the trees recently taken down at Town Hall. ***J Pinto made a MOTION to put the logs from trees cut down at Town Hall up for auction. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.***
- H. Chaplin Volunteer Fire Department Report: J Pinto reported that the fire truck has returned to service and that all work performed was covered under warranty.
- I. Senior Center Report: Please see attached.
- J. Public Library Report: Please see attached.

New Business

- A. Tax Collector Refunds: None
- B. All Pending and New FOI requests: None
- C. Appointments and Resignations: None
- D. Discussion and possible action on the Roll Call/Legal Ad of the May 12, 2025 Annual Town Meeting J Roman read out the draft Roll Call to the Board. ***K Fortier made a MOTION to approve the Roll Call/Legal Ad of the May 12, 2025 Annual Town Meeting as read. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.***
- E. Discussion and possible action on placing electronic speed signs on North Bedlam Road (near Palmer Road) both North and South bound. J Roman reported receiving complaints about speeding through this area. ***J Pinto made a MOTION to place electronic speed signs on North Bedlam Road (near Palmer Road) for both North and South bound lanes. K Fortier seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.***
- F. Report from shared Town Administrative Support Services of NECCOG: J Lumpkins reports that he is representing the Town of Chaplin, Pomfret and Canterbury in his involvement with a number of groups including Safe Streets for All, Airline Trail/State Park Trail Alliance and the Eastern Regional Tourism District.
- G. Discussion and possible action on an application to the Board of Education of Regional School District 11 for institution of the procedure for the dissolution of Regional School District 11: First Selectman of Hampton, Allan Cahill, joined the discussion. He stated that a lot of work was done during previous dissolution studies, however, the issue was prevented from being brought to a vote. He still feels that it is important to perform

another study, and it must go through the democratic process of a vote. J Roman reported that the Town of Scotland is on board as well. J Pinto brought up the issues of exploring regionalization of the elementary school as an alternative, the disruption that a study will cause and how he feels it is important to discuss this topic with the RD 11 BOE ahead of initializing a dissolution study. Maintaining an empty building was also brought up by J Pinto as a concern. ***K Fortier made the following MOTION: Once an affirmative agreement has been reached by the Towns of Chaplin, Hampton and Scotland, the Town of Chaplin shall hold a Special Town Meeting, at a date to be determined, to discuss and take action on the following question: "Should the Town of Chaplin submit an application to the Board of Education of Regional School District 11 for institution of the procedure for the dissolution of Regional School District 11?" J Roman seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.***

5. Old Business

- A. American Rescue Plan Funds: Final ARPA fund numbers have been submitted to the Office of Policy Management (OPM). The Board of Selectmen stated that the funds were used very well over time.
- B. Update for the construction of fire pond and dry hydrant: The new hydrant has been tested and produced 1,000 gallons per minute. The contractor, Bob Mott of Heritage Building and Design of Mansfield LLC recently provided assistance to the DPW with repairing damaged metal trim at the CVFD with a further offer to assist in installation. The Board of Selectmen extend their gratitude for this assistance.
- C. Discuss/updates on Bedlam and England Road Bridges: Concrete has been poured at the England Road Bridge and J Roman is hoping to schedule a ribbon cutting for the opening of the bridge during the first week of June.
- D. Town Administrator Update: J Roman thanked Town Administrator Jordan Lumpkins for the hard work he has put in for the Town of Chaplin. The Chaplin Town attorney has tweaked the contract for Shared Town Administrative Support Services with NECCOG, and the final contract has been signed by the First Selectmen of Chaplin, Hampton and Scotland.
- E. Update on the Community Connectivity Grant Fund/Sidewalk Project: The First Selectman and Town Administrator met earlier in the day with representatives from the Senior Center, Library, Friends of the Library and the Historic District Commission to present plans as they are today. A further update to the project will be done at the Annual Town Meeting on May 12, 2025. Funding for Phase II of the project (handicap ramp up to Garrison Park and associated paving and improvements at Garrison Park) is currently being applied for through the Community Connectivity Grant Fund.

6. **Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion:** D Weingart mentioned earlier studies for the dissolution of RD 11, and he feels that the direction that the study takes depends on who is appointed to the study team. J Roman mentioned that he continually receives the question of: "What are we going to do with our schools?" Allan Cahill stated that as Chief Elected Officer of the Town, he is deeply interested in due process for this topic.
7. **Agenda Suggestions for next meeting:** None
8. Date, time, and place of next meeting (June 5, 2025 at 7:00 PM, Chaplin Town Hall).
9. **Adjourn:** Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted by,
Susan Welshman
Administrative Assistant*

Senior Center Monthly Report

Date April 2025

Total number of guests for the month 812

Total lunches served for the month 446

Activities:

Breakfast 63

Fit & Fun 166

Mexican Train 8

Bingo 50

Mahjongg 62

Pickleball 51

Yoga 21

Memoir Group 18

Walking Club —

Haircuts 10

Massage 8

Special Activities

Garden Club Planting Workshop	10
Artist Chat	8
AARP Safe Driving Class	5
Lunch Outing to Guss	22
May Day Basket Craft Class	10

Chaplin Public Library Report

March 2025

– 618 people in-person (open 18 days with an average of 34 people per day).
Circulation - 745 (367 items checked out, 195 electronic checkouts – only Chaplin residents). About 200 people attended in-person events (about 100 of those for Irish Band Goodbye Irene).

- HVAC infrastructure for Internet upgraded with line extended to Senior Center through a grant (dropped Spectrum Internet) - didn't touch HVAC computer. New England Energy came out and updated new IP address for upgrade - cost \$1,200 for 5 hours work (received no estimate or approval for work – referred to DPW Supervisor).

April Upcoming Events:

- Book Chat this Friday, April 25th 3-4 pm.
- Next Cookbook Club is April 30th at 6:30pm making recipes from Jamie Oliver.
- April Spring Break events - Puppet Show, rock painting, Ham Radio with about 20 people attending.
- Cathy Smith passed away suddenly. The Board would like to hang a Quilt Show to honor her.

-Books borrowed by Chaplin residents:	263 (71.7%)
Books borrowed by out-of-towners:	<u>104 (27.5%)</u>
Total:	367