



BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

RICHARD H. SMITH TOWN HALL

XX Regular Meeting

Special Meeting

Date: March 22, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM

Regular Meeting of March 22, 2022

First Selectman Angus McDonald welcomed everyone to the Board of Selectmen regular meeting.

Attendance: Selectmen: Angus McDonald, Duane Gates, Jim Olson; Joyce Berardis (Selectman's Assistant); Residents: Gary Clark, Mike Dinello, Jane Samuels, Kathryn Russell, Ben Whalen, Fred Jordan, Tim Lee, Jim Budney.

Call to Order:

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by McDonald.

Approve minutes from regular meeting held on March 8, 2022:

Gates moved, Olson 2nd, to approve minutes from Regular Meeting held on March 8, 2022.

APPROVED 3-0

Audience of Citizens – Any business to come before the Board:

Ben Whalen spoke on behalf of the Republican Town Committee to endorse the appointment of Fred Jordan to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Fred Jordan then spoke on his own behalf stating that he has been a resident of Deep River for many years and would like to help the

Town move forward. McDonald thanked Jordan for his interest and mentioned that the Board of Selectmen would be contacting him soon.

Mike Dinello asked what the Town is doing concerning Ransomware to which McDonald responded that the Town is working closely with its IT company as well as CIRMA, its insurance company concerning this matter.

Mike Dinello then asked about the speed radar sign. McDonald noted the Town is in the application process of obtaining same and, when completed, the sign will be placed in front of the package store.

Jordan commented on the drainage issue on Route 80 near the ambulance barn. McDonald stated he has contacted the State concerning this matter.

Russell mentioned the sidewalks on Elm Street. McDonald stated the Town Crew is currently cleaning the sidewalks and should be making note of any issues. McDonald also mentioned he would like to obtain an additional grant to replace the sidewalks on Elm Street from Union Street to the highway on both sides of the roadway.

Samuels spoke again about the need for an ad hoc committee for the designation of the ARPA funds.

A discussion followed regarding the Affordable Housing Plan. Russell mentioned she is interested in participating on the Affordable Housing Committee.

NO ACTION NECESSARY, NONE TAKEN

Tax refunds from Tax Collector:

McDonald stated the Town has three refunds totaling \$8,991.51.

Olson moved, Gates 2nd to approve the tax refunds from the Tax Collector in the amount of \$8,991.51.

APPROVED 3-0

Nicholas Olson:

Gates moved, Olson 2nd to move item #5 on the Agenda to item #7.5.

APPROVED 3-0

Discussion of Purchase of tanker truck for fire department:

McDonald discussed the condition of the existing tanker truck owned by the Fire Department. The truck was built in 1989 and was purchased by the Town of Deep River from Durham in 2008 subsequent to Durham retiring said truck due to its age; it is an 1800 gallon tanker. The Fire Department has looked into repairing the truck (namely the chassis) but has been advised against that as it is not cost effective. The Fire Department is looking to purchase a 2000 gallon tanker and has raised \$125,000 towards this purchase; the total cost of which is \$395,000. A discussion followed with Fire Chief, Tim Lee, and the Board of Selectmen.

NO ACTION NECESSARY, NONE TAKEN

Discussion of purchase of plow truck:

McDonald then discussed the need for the town to purchase a plow truck. Deep River has received a proposal for \$295,000; although a new proposal is needed as this one has expired. The truck to be replaced is over 30 years old; it has been repaired repeatedly. It has passed safety inspections and will need to last at least another winter season as delivery of new trucks will take approximately 18 months.

NO ACTION NECESSARY, NONE TAKEN

Nicholas Olson:

Nicholas Olson spoke about purchasing the property at the industrial park area. Olson mentioned he spoke with the Tax Assessor's office and he is still interested in purchasing said property. McDonald stated the property would be sold how the previous properties were sold. A discussion followed concerning the process of selling the property. The Board of Selectmen was in agreement that the sale of the property must be conducted fairly.

NO ACTION NECESSARY, NONE TAKEN

Executive Session regarding contract negotiations:

McDonald noted that executive session was called to discuss union contract negotiations.

Olson moved, Gates 2nd to enter into executive session regarding union contract negotiations.

APPROVED 3-0

Exit executive session at 7:17pm.

McDonald noted that no votes were taken and no decisions made.

Adjournment:

Gates moved, Olson 2nd to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 7:18pm.

APPROVED 3-0