



BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING RICHARD H. SMITH TOWN HALL & ON-LINE

XX Regular Meeting

Special Meeting

Date: March 26, 2024

Time: 6:30 PM

Attendance:

First Selectman, Carol Jones; Selectman, Duane Gates; Selectman, Kathryn Russell;

Audience of Citizens: 7- residents in attendance; 2-on-line

Others: 2- videographers

1. **Call to Order** - Jones welcomed all to the meeting/and called to order at 6:38 pm.

Motion made by Russell to add two items to the agenda: P & Z appointments; and to talk about UCONN T2 traffic safety program. Jones seconded motion. After discussion, P & Z appointments were not approved to be added to agenda; UCONN T2 program was added.

2. **Approve meeting minutes:** Gates made a motion to approve meeting minutes from Special Meetings 1/12, 1/26, 2/6, 2/20, 2/26 and 2/28. Also, from regular meetings 1/23, 2/27, 3/14. Russell second. Jones stated that a resident asked us to amend the meeting minutes from 2/20 to indicate that the reason that there were 'no audience of citizens on-line' was due to technical difficulties. Motion passed with this correction.

Motion Passed 3-0

3. **Audience of Citizens:** *The public is reminded to state name for the record. Comments should be kept to a maximum of five minutes. Public comment is not intended to be a question-and-answer period; rather it is an opportunity for the Board to hear citizen comments related to town matters.*

- Resident gave opinion that the town should sell town owned land and use funds to buy new Fire House.
- Comments that FS is doing a good job; love the weekly First Selectman news.

4. **Storm Water Management Plan:** Jones reported that the town's MS4 plan needs to be revisited as although it has been approved by the state and the town is in compliance, it seems to not address other water discharge not related to storm water. Due to a recent situation in town, the building department had referenced the document looking for guidance and made the recommendation to revisit the document.

No Action Taken

5. **Municipal Agent for the Elderly:** Jones explained that the State Department of Aging had reached out to inquire about who is the town's municipal agent for the elderly. Our Director of Social Services, Rosie Bininger, has served in this role in the past. Jones made a motion to reappoint Rosie to this role. She will serve a two-year appointment. Gates seconded. Motion passed.

Approved 3-0

6. **ARPA funds allocation/budget recommendations:** Discussion about ARPA fund allocation ensued due to the proposed FY 24-25 budget. BOS will table discussion and will consider altering our recommendations for funding amounts, based on BOF feedback. The BOS would like to propose to BOF that the purchase of a new fire truck to replace the 1989 truck be included in the FY24-25 budget. Jones made motion; Gates seconded.

Approved 3-0

7. **RiverCog-interlocal agreement:** Jones mentioned that the interlocal agreement provides a benefit to the town as it is more economical then contracting for disposal of hazard waste on our own. It provides a required service to our residents and allows people to dispose of their hazardous household waste correctly. It will be voted on at the town meeting coming up on 4/1/24.

No Action Taken
8. **Town Real Estate Holdings:** Jones reported that the commercial real estate company hasn't finalized their report. Will table until next meeting.

No Action Taken
9. **Town Meeting:** There will be a town meeting on April 1st 2024. Items on the agenda will be approval of 21K for FY 23-24 to cover cost of annual financial software contract. Also, approval of interlocal agreements for RiverCog hazardous waste participation and the Animal Control Officer.

No Action Taken
10. **Solar Farm Array Farm:** Jones gave an update on the solar project which is currently in the building department permit process. After a special meeting was held with the BOS, the Building Department and Verogy, it was agreed by all parties, that a 50% reduction on building department fees would be approved. Estimate start time is late April, early May.

No Action Taken
11. **Region 4 schools:** Jones gave a quick update. DRES held their final budget workshop on 3/21/24. The mold remediation project is on the referendum being voted on today 3/26/24. There is a Region 4 public meeting about their proposed FY24-25 budget on April 1st @7 pm. Jones urged all to go to the Region 4 web site to learn about what is being proposed and attend the meetings to let your voices be heard.

No Action Taken
12. **Item Added: UCONN T2 traffic safety program;** Russell urged BOS to reach out to UCONN program contact, Melissa, to invite her to come to Deep River. Jones stated that she had spoken to her on a few occasions and in fact, had reached out to her at the beginning of the month. Jones also shared that working with RiverCog, she had filed an application with UCONN T2 program to borrow speed enforcement signs which Jones plans to have installed on Union Street along with a stop sign. Gates stated that the previous administration had her come to town and give feedback and ideas. At Russell's urging, Jones agreed to reach out again to see if she could offer anything new to Deep River.

No Action Taken
13. **Audience of Citizens:** *The public is reminded to state name for the record. Comments should be kept to a maximum of five minutes. Public comment is not intended to be a question-and-answer period; rather it is an opportunity for the Board to hear citizen comments related to town matters.*
 - Member of P & Z offered comments about the town's MS4 plan and suggested not a bad idea to review/update it.
14. **Adjournment:** *The BOS remained in session for the Board of Finance meeting that followed.*
 - *BOF- town treasurer report: Tom Lindner recommended closing out two accounts that were deemed to be obsolete as stand-alone accounts. The money will be moved into an existing town account to clean up the town's banking statements. The BOS was asked to approve this action. Jones made a motion to allow this consolidation. Russell seconded. Motion passed.*
 - *Discussion about ARPA funds and the BOS recommendation for remaining funds. BOF voted down BOS recommendations and requested consideration for some funding to go towards the upgrades at the transfer station. BOS will discuss and present to BOF at a future meeting.*
 - *BOF will put purchase of fire truck into preliminary budget numbers for next fiscal year.*

Russell made a motion to adjourn at 9:04 pm. Gates seconded. Motion passed.