



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

XX Regular Meeting
(postponed from 3/12/24)

Special Meeting

Date: March 14, 2024

Time: 6:00 PM

Attendance:

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

Audience of Citizens: 4- residents in attendance; 1- on-line

Others: 2- videographers

1. **Call to Order** - Jones welcomed all to the meeting/called to order at 6:09 pm.
2. **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.*

- Questions to BOS regarding RFP's for roadwork and incubator buildings information

3. **Resolution** – A resolution was read to authorize the Town of Deep River to enter into, with, and deliver to, the State of Connecticut Department of Homeland Security in regards to application for an Emergency Management Performance Grant (E.M.P.G.). Also allows, Carol Doak-Jones as First Selectman to sign documents for the grant. Gates made a motion, second by Russell. Motion passed.

Approved 3-0

4. **Discussion on potential drainage issue** – Jones mentioned on going drainage issue on a private property on Oak Ridge Drive due to the heavy rains. Town might face costs if drainage pipe in road discovered to need repair.

No action taken

5. **Town Meeting**- date set for April 1st @ 6pm, so that all residents can then attend the BOE public meeting on their proposed budget for FY 24-25. On the agenda for the town public meeting are three items:
 - Accounting Software yearly fee;
 - Approve interlocal agreement for hazard waste collection
 - Approve interlocal agreement for animal control officer

6. **ARPA funds allocation** – At the BOS meeting on 2/27/24, Jones, Gates and Russell offered their priority projects from those presented at a special BOS meeting held on 2/6/24. After much discussion, 6 projects, totaling 206K, were agreed on to be presented to the Board of Finance for approval at their meeting on 2/27/24. The BOF did not approve the slate of projects to move forward as presented. At this meeting, Jones suggested that the top 3 projects that the BOS agreed on should be presented to the BOF. Russell offered that we engage the BOF further to understand why they didn't support specific projects. All agreed to continue the dialogue. Gates made a motion to move forward the following:
- Heritage and Tourism Corridor (various pieces to this project) -\$35K
 - Downtown Deep River Master Plan (many components to this project)- \$100K
 - Public Art for Economic Development - \$25K

The motion was seconded by Russell. Discussion followed. BOS is concerned that the money needs to be allocated and contracts signs by end of December 2024. Russell noted that the Public Art proposal was not a project she supported. Jones stated that she supported it. Motion passed.

Approved 2-1

7. **Solar Array farm- request to waive building permit fees;** Jones mentioned that the contractor installing the solar array farm near the town garage, on the former landfill site, has requested a waiver of all building department permit fees. Jones has reviewed the contract and shared it with Russell and Gates. The contract does not mention a waiver of fees. After more discussion, it was decided that Jones will set up a call with the contractor to include all parties; a special meeting of the BOS will be noticed.
8. **Region 4 schools- general discussion items** – After feedback from a resident asking the BOS to give a Region 4 update, Jones offered that the DRES budget is not yet set but will hold their final budget meeting on 3/21/24. The Region 4 referendum to vote on the 5.8-million-dollar expenditure for mold remediation at JW, will be held on 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.
9. **Adjournment** – Russell made a motion to adjourn at 6:50 pm. Gates seconded. Motion passed.