



BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

RICHARD H. SMITH TOWN HALL

XX Regular Meeting

Special Meeting

Date: July 26, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM

Regular Meeting of July 26, 2022

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

Attendance: Selectmen: Angus McDonald, Jim Olson, Duane Gates; Joyce Berardis (Selectman's Assistant); Residents: Jeff Gross, Kyra Beta, Kathryn Russell, Lori Sanfratello, Kristen Chasse, Robert Ghinder; Margo Elliott, John Greene (videographers)

Call to Order:

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:31pm by McDonald.

Approve minutes from regular meeting held on July 12, 2022:

Olson moved, Gates 2nd, to approve minutes from Regular Meeting held on July 12, 2022.

APPROVED 3-0

Audience of Citizens:

Beta introduced herself as a member of the Deep River PTO and asked the Board of Selectmen about the purchase of new playgrounds for the elementary school. McDonald responded that the Town applied for a bond in the amount of \$325,000 for the purchase of four new playgrounds: 2 playgrounds at DRES, 1 playground and Devitt Field and 1 playground at Plattwood Park. McDonald stated the Town should know soon if the bond has been awarded.

Gates asked, if the Town is awarded the bond, will Deep River have a "community build" for the playgrounds. McDonald believes the school playgrounds will not be a "community build," however, he is open to discuss said scenario for the other playgrounds.

Ghinder inquired about the sale of Mount St. John and the subsequent surveying of his property. McDonald replied that he has been in informal meetings with potential buyers since the property was listed. McDonald explained that if potential buyers of Mount St. John were surveying his property, it is a possibility it was done because of the easement that is in place.

NO ACTION NECESSARY, NONE TAKEN

Appointments:

Parks & Recreation Commission:

Kristen Anne Chasse

Term to expire: 2023

McDonald stated he had a conversation with Chasse who is interested and willing to serve on the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Gates moved, Olson 2nd to appoint Kristen Anne Chasse to the Parks & Recreation Commission with a term to expire in 2023.

APPROVED 3-0

Tax Refunds from Tax Collector:

McDonald noted the tax collector requested approval of one tax refund totaling \$11,267.14.

Gates moved, Olson 2nd to approve the tax refund from tax collector in the amount of \$11,267.14.

APPROVED 3-0

Discussion of EV chargers:

McDonald spoke briefly about the history of the EV charger at the library and noted that the charger is no longer working. The Town is looking to replace the current EV charger with two chargers. Locations for charger placement were discussed. McDonald received a proposal from Titan Energy. Deep River Sustainable CT Committee is also working on securing proposals.

NO ACTION NECESSARY, NONE TAKEN

Discussion of police vehicles:

McDonald explained that Deep River's police force has doubled in size from two officers to four officers. Although, the Town currently has enough vehicles to support each officer, Two of the Town's police vehicles are in need of replacement as they continue to incur maintenance costs and are out of service while being repaired. Our officers are currently borrowing Chester's police vehicle for which Deep River is thankful. A discussion followed concerning the purchase of one fully outfitted police vehicle paid from by the surplus in the general fund and the purchase of another fully outfitted police vehicle paid for by ARPA funds. Gates recommended seeking proposals for the purchase of both vehicles at the same time to see if the Town can see any cost savings. McDonald concurred.

Olson moved, Gates 2nd to request from the Board of Finance an amount not to exceed \$65,000 for the purchase of a fully outfitted police vehicle.

APPROVED 3-0

Discussion and possible action of salary study:

McDonald noted the Board of Finance Chairperson, George Eckenroth, and he interviewed three prospective salary study consultants and received three proposals for a salary study. Upon review of all three proposals, Debra Milardo, Consultant in Human Resources, seem to the best fit for the Town and was also the lowest bid.

Gates moved, Olson 2nd to hire Debra Milardo, Consultant in Human Resources, to conduct and perform the salary study for the Town of Deep River.

APPROVED 3-0

Approval of 2021 Resolution and Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Deep River and the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security:

McDonald began by explaining that Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is comprised of approximately 19 other towns and is Deep River's connection to the

Regional Department of Emergency Services. The Regional Department of Emergency Services works through RiverCOG especially when it pertains to emergency funding. The Resolution, read into the minutes by McDonald, allows the First Selectman to authorize and execute grant monies from the federal government to the Town. Most of the grant monies approved is directed toward regionalized purchases. This Resolution is prepared and approved by the Board of Selectmen on a yearly basis.

Olson moved, Gates 2nd to approve the 2021 Resolution and Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Deep River and the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

APPROVED 3-0

Executive Session – Union Contract negotiations:

McDonald noted that Executive Session was called to discuss union contract negotiations.

Olson moved, Gates 2nd to enter into Executive Session concerning union contract negotiations at 6:58pm.

APPROVED 3-0

Exit executive session at 7:07pm.

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

Gates moved, Olson 2nd to authorize McDonald to execute the Union contract.

APPROVED 3-0

Adjournment:

Olson moved, McDonald 2nd to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 7:08pm.

APPROVED 3-0