



Special Town Meeting

March 16, 2022

A Special Town Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 in the Richard H. Smith Town Hall Auditorium. The meeting was attended by the Board of Selectmen including First Selectman Angus McDonald, Selectman Duane Gates, and Selectman James Olson. Also in attendance were approximately 20 residents.

First Selectman Angus McDonald called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. At the request of Fred Jordan, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. James Olson made a motion to appoint Rick Daniels as moderator which was seconded by Duane Gates. The motion was approved unanimously. Rick Daniels appointed Paula Weglarz to act as clerk of the meeting who then read the call.

Motion to approve Item #1 was made by George Eckenroth and seconded by Jane Samuels.

1. To approve actions of the Board of Selectmen's regular meeting of June 8, 2021:

- **To approve the land donation of approximately .67 acres at the corner of Westbrook Road and Winthrop Road to the Winthrop Fire House.**

Discussion:

- First Selectman Angus McDonald gave a brief description of the land to be donated.
- Tim Lee said the project began approximately 2 years ago when the Trustees approached the George C. Field Company about the land. Lee said the additional land will provide space to expand on a parking situation where parking is already tight.

There being no further discussion, a voice vote was held. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Motion to approve Item #2 was made by George Eckenroth and seconded by Mike Dinello.

2. To approve actions of the Board of Finance's regular meeting on January 25, 2022:

- **To approve an additional \$45,000 for the current fiscal year (21-22) to be passed into the Town's pension fund.**
- **To approve spending of up to \$65,000 on body and car cameras for the Deep River Police to be paid for out of the Town's general fund.**

Discussion:

- Fred Jordan asked why the pension fund was underfunded. First Selectman Angus McDonald stated an error was made during the budget preparation process.
- Fred Jordan commented that the money spent on cameras is far less than a lawsuit.
- Fred Jordan asked if the State has put funding forward for the cameras. First Selectman Angus McDonald said to his knowledge the State has not provided funding for the cameras. He said the plan was to tie into the State Police server for storage of digital recordings but the State is not allowing that at this time. He would like local legislators to push to help this happen.
- Jane Samuels asked if the proposed equipment is compatible with the State's equipment which McDonald confirmed.
- Mike Dinello asked if the \$65,000 covers the cost of storage. First Selectman Angus McDonald said this is just for the purchase of equipment.
- Jane Samuels asked about insuring the equipment and about the possibility of sharing a server with other towns. She also wanted to know if the money was coming from ARPA funds. First Selectman Angus McDonald said the town insurance will cover the equipment. He also said he is still researching the possibility of sharing a server with other towns. McDonald said the money for the purchase would come from the general fund not ARPA funds and there is a July 1, 2022 deadline to install and activate the equipment.

There being no further discussion, a voice vote was held. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Motion to approve Item #3 was made by George Eckenroth and seconded by Mike Dinello.

3. To approve actions of the Board of Selectmen's regular meeting on February 8, 2022:

Appointment to the Community Health Committee:

Christopher A. Brooks

Term to expire: 12/1/2023

Discussion:

- McDonald noted that Mr. Brooks had been recommended by the CHC and appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

There being no further discussion, a voice vote was held. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Motion was made by Jane Samuels and seconded by George Eckenroth to adjourn. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

ATTEST: Paula Weglarz, Assistant Town Clerk