

Special Town Meeting

September 13, 2022

A Special Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 in the Richard H. Smith Town Hall. 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 11 residents.

First Selectman Angus McDonald called the meeting to order at 7:49 PM. Duane Gates made a motion to appoint James Olson as moderator which was seconded by Paula Weglarz. The motion was approved unanimously. James Olson appointed Paula Weglarz to act as clerk of the meeting who then read the call. Greg Alexander made a motion to accept the call as read which was seconded by Kate Cryder. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion to approve Item #1 was made by Duane Gates and seconded by George Eckenroth. The motion was approved unanimously.

1. To approve actions of the Board of Selectmen's and Board of Finance's regular meeting of July 26, 2022:

- To approve the purchase of a fully outfitted police vehicle with a purchase price not to exceed \$65,000.

Discussion:

- Greg Alexander asked what is included in the price? Resident Trooper Stephen Krause said the vehicle will be purchased from MHQ, a Ford dealer in Middletown, CT. It is a black, gas powered 2022 Ford Police Interceptor utility vehicle. Included in the price is lighting, necessary computer equipment, body camera equipment, and forward and rear facing cameras. The car will be unmarked. The base price of the vehicle is \$33,000 with the necessary equipment making up the remainder of the cost.
- Angus McDonald expressed his gratitude to Whelan Engineering for contributing police vehicles to the Town of Deep River for many years. Unfortunately, Whelan does not have any vehicles available at this time and there is an immediate need. McDonald said Deep River currently maintains 5 police vehicles. The fleet is old and maintenance costs have increased substantially.
- Alexander questioned the need for 5 police vehicles. Trooper Krause said one of the cars is a spare as it only has lights and not the other required equipment. It is only used for traffic jobs as per state statute. McDonald said that the intent is to auction off 2 vehicles leaving Deep River with 4 fully equipped cruisers. McDonald mentioned the multiple benefits to each officer having their own car. Trooper Krause said there are several instances where all of our officers are working at the same time such as Family Day and the Deep River Muster. They are also able to work construction jobs in neighboring

towns. Olson pointed out that construction jobs are a source of revenue for Deep River. Margo Hilfiger said with 4 vehicles we should see a savings in maintenance costs over the constables sharing 2 or 3 cruisers. Alexander said he still believes 4 vehicles is too many.

- James Olson said he would like the vehicles to be marked as opposed to the unmarked that we have now.
- Duane Gates said we should try to keep it uniform. If we buy a black vehicle then we should stick with black. If we decide to make them marked vehicles then we should be uniform in the graphics.

There being no further discussion, a voice vote was held. **The motion was approved with 1 nay vote.**

A motion to adjourn was made by Olson and seconded by Weglarz. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.

ATTEST: _____
Paula Weglarz, Assistant Town Clerk