



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DEEP RIVER TOWN HALL

Special Meeting — March 31, 2016

Attendance: Selectmen Angus McDonald & David Oliveria

Also in attendance were approximately 35 citizens.

This special meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by McDonald. The board thanked those present for attending and began the meeting with a moment of silence for former First Selectman Richard H. Smith.

Discuss and act on interim organizational changes necessary to continue town operations:

The board shared that the purpose of this BOS Special Meeting was to explain our responsibilities at this time, provide the town's departments temporary organizational reporting, share what our board has done so far and provide a status of activities, projects, and priorities in town as we understand them. All were encouraged to call town hall with any questions and we will answer them to the best of our abilities. Town hall number is: 860-526-6020.

With the loss of our First Selectman, the role of town leadership falls to the remaining Selectmen, McDonald and Oliveria, jointly, until the position of First Selectman is filled. Connecticut General Statutes 9-222 deals with First Selectman and Selectman "office vacancies." According to these statutes, the remaining Board of Selectman have thirty days from the vacancy to appoint a new First Selectman and appoint a replacement Selectman should one of us become First Selectman. We have begun searching for the best choice to help us and Deep River at this important time in the town's life. We hope to make the appointments as soon as possible.

This board met on Saturday March 26th at noon, discussed and agreed to a plan to act on for the next few weeks. To maintain clear lines of authority and clarity, town department

heads will report to one interim leader. The Board discussed and agreed that, for the interim and until a First Selectman is appointed, town department heads will report to McDonald. McDonald intends to be at town hall from 3 to 5pm daily starting Tuesday, April 5th.

The Board discussed and assigned a Town Spokesperson until a new First Selectman is appointed. The Board assigned Selectman McDonald to this role.

Review current activities in town and plans going forward:

The board discussed the budget 2016/2017 status with others and determined that the only thing remaining were possibly some adjustments to the DRES and R4 budget lines. The Board will need to consider and factor-in additional First Selectmen pay to cover Smith's vacation/sick time, additional part time constable effort, and additional Highway Dept. staff. The board felt confident that this will be finished in time for reviews with BOF and the town's Budget Hearing.

The town's highway department has at least five months work in front of them. Priority #1 is the Industrial Park Annex where paving had been scheduled for April/May and drainage lines and catch basins need to be finished. Priority #2 is Plattwood Park where paving has also been scheduled for April/May and granite curbing needs to be installed and sidewalks need to be finished.

Police/ Constable Scheduling has coverage set through the weekend. A meeting is scheduled for April 5th Tuesday afternoon with Trooper Taylor to discuss.

Many have approached us regarding offering a donation in Dick Smith's honor to the Deep River Fire Department new Fire Station. We have directed our Accounts Manager to create an account for this and checks can be mailed or dropped off at town hall with "DRFD New Fire Station" in the memo line. These funds will only go into the special account and will not be used for any other purpose. We will also investigate setting up a "Go Fund Me" or similar web-based account for this same purpose. The new building's costs will be near the cost of the recent sewer expansion and so we welcome any and all donations and will seek all possible grants, state aide, and even federal support. This Board is anxious to get this effort going but, facing realities in front of us, have determined to postpone this effort until May, after budgets, etc.

Finally, many have approached members of the board on naming some part of town in Dick Smith's honor. The board felt that this is a wonderful idea and an appropriate way to remember his long-time love and dedication to Deep River. Many suggestions were received and will be considered when the board discusses and finds the best course to take that is most fitting to remember him.

The board reminded the audience of upcoming meetings and referendums. Citizens are encouraged to attend and participate. A post card will be mailed out as a reminder in the coming weeks.

- May 3rd is the Region 4 Budget Referendum
- May 3rd is also the Deep River BOF Budget Hearing
- May 16th is our Annual Town Meeting

Questions from Audience:

The board opened the meeting for questions from the audience that pertained to this Special Meeting agenda. Two questions were asked.

Q1 – Would there be any changes to the Plattwood Industrial Park Annex regarding those parties selected to build on the land.

A1 – No changes are planned. The board will honor agreements in place for those who have been selected.

Q2 – Dick Smith was the chairman of the Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD). CRAHD needs a replacement as soon as possible for upcoming committee action.

A2 – The board will appoint a replacement as soon as possible and by the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion by Oliveria, McDonald 2nd, to adjourn at 5:44 pm.

APPROVED 2 – 0

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Oliveria,
Selectman