



# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## RICHARD H. SMITH TOWN HALL

### Regular Meeting March 26, 2019

**Attendance:** Selectmen Angus McDonald, and Duane Gates, Bill Burdick, Margo Hilfinger and John Greene (*videography*), Augusto Lucarelli, Jim Olson, Jane Samuels, Ben Whalen, Gary Clark, Richard Nagot, Brett Thompson, Roger Williams, Jonathan Kastner

### **Call to Order:**

This regular meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by McDonald.

### **Approve minutes from Regular Meeting held on March 12, 2019:**

Burdick moved, Gates 2<sup>nd</sup>, to accept the meeting minutes of Regular Meeting held March 12, 2019 with the correction of the date of the meeting that Mr. Thompson pointed out under Audience of Citizens from March 12<sup>th</sup> to February 26<sup>th</sup>.

APPROVED 3 – 0

### **Tax Collector reimbursements:**

McDonald informed the Board that the Tax Collector had tax reimbursements totaling \$2,667.66 for the month of February.

Gates moved, Burdick 2<sup>nd</sup>, to reimburse \$3,395.60 as requested by the Tax Collector.

APPROVED 3 – 0

### **Discuss and possible act on appointment to Superintendent Search Committee:**

McDonald noted that with the announced retirement of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ruth Levy a search committee was being formed, and that each town, Chester, Deep River, and Essex were asked to appoint one member of the general public. McDonald stated that three Deep River citizens had asked to be considered, and that he recommended John Wichtowski to represent Deep River. A brief discussion followed.

Gates moved, Burdick 2<sup>nd</sup>, to appoint John Wichtowski as Deep River's representative to the Superintendent Search Committee formed by the Region 4 Supervision District Board.

APPROVED 3 – 0

**Discuss traffic assessment and possible solution to Union/Spring Streets intersection:**

McDonald stated that he had reviewed multiple traffic calming solutions for the Union/Spring Streets intersection and that while it is understood that stop signs are not the most effective, they are the most immediate and least costly, and recommended that, at least temporarily, a stop sign be placed at the northbound lane of the intersection, creating a three-way stop. McDonald stated that he would contact appropriate agencies to ensure that the sign and stop bar are placed correctly, and that he would continue to look for better solutions.

**Estuary update:**

Burdick provided an update on the Estuary Council of Seniors:  
Recently held a strategic planning session  
Working on raising funds for update of physical plant  
Need for an awareness campaign

**Correction of minutes:**

McDonald informed the Board of the Town Clerk's instruction on how to correct minutes that had already been accepted. That process is to make another motion.

Burdick moved, Gates 2<sup>nd</sup>, that the Board of Selectmen obtain contact information and converse with each party who has expressed interest in open alternate positions on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

APPROVED 3 – 0

**Audience of Citizens – Any other business to come before the Board:**

McDonald informed the Board that he received a letter of resignation effective April 1, 2019 from Bill Burdick and proceeded to read said letter. Burdick explained that his concern for his health is the main reason for his resignation. Both McDonald and Gates expressed their gratitude for his service and an appreciation of Burdick's concern for his health.

McDonald explained the process of filling a vacancy on the Board of Selectmen as defined by State Statute.

McDonald noted that the Republican Town Committee had already sent in a recommendation for the position and that a special meeting of the Board of Selectmen would be scheduled to begin the process.

McDonald informed the Board that he was close to completion of his review of Middlesex and New London Counties P&Z make up.

McDonald informed the Board that bleachers would be installed at the ballfield at Plattwood Park.

Richard Nagot explained that the Veteran's Memorial Green Committee is looking for the names of active duty military and reserve personnel.

Mr. Nagot also asked that the state be informed that Rte. 80 has a drainage issue at the turn just before the Town Garage and at the Ambulance Association building.

Mr. Nagot recommended that the intersection of Bushy Hill and Westbrook Road be “squared up.”

Ben Whalen asked about the Zoning Enforcement Officer retirement and a discussion followed regarding the process of how to hire a replacement.

Jane Samuels spoke about the responsibilities of a ZEO and recommended review of advertisements for ZEO in Torrington and Brooklyn and suggested the Town hire a planning consultant or town planner.

Brett Thompson recommended the Board consider hiring a recording secretary.

Mr. Thompson asked about the process of filling a vacancy and McDonald read the Statute and stated that the Board would be working to fill the position as quickly as possible.

Mr. Thompson asked about the special Inland/Wetland meeting and a cease and desist issued. McDonald spoke to his limited understanding of the situation.

Augusto Lucarelli asked about the makeup of the Board of Selectmen when Dick Smith passed and why Dave Oliveria was no longer selectman.

Margo Hilfinger asked if the term of the appointed selectman would be only until the coming election and was answered that that was in fact, the case.

Ms. Samuels asked about Republican Town Committee process and asked about their nomination. Jim Olson spoke briefly about himself and his history in Deep River.

**Adjournment:**

Burdick moved, Gates 2<sup>nd</sup>, to adjourn the Board of Selectman’s meeting at 7:00 pm.

APPROVED 3 - 0