



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

RICHARD H. SMITH TOWN HALL

Regular Meeting April 23, 2019

Attendance: Selectmen Angus McDonald, Duane Gates and Jim Olson, Margo Hilfinger and John Greene (*videography*), Anthony Bolduc, Gary Clark, Augusto Lucarelli, Jane Samuels, Brett Thompson, Lawrence Stewart, Andrea Isaacs, Ron Larson, Mike DiNello

Call to Order:

This regular meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by McDonald.

Approve minutes from Regular Meeting held on April 9, 2019:

Gates moved, Olson 2nd, to accept the meeting minutes of Regular Meeting held on April 9, 2019.

APPROVED 3 – 0

Tax Collector reimbursements:

McDonald informed the board that the Tax Collector had a total of two tax reimbursements totaling \$2,324.35 for the month of March.

Olson moved, Gates 2nd, to reimburse \$2,324.35 as requested by the Tax Collector.

APPROVED 3 – 0

Review of Planning and Zoning Commission possible appointments.

Executive session possible:

McDonald noted that all interested parties had been contacted by all of the sitting Selectmen. McDonald pointed out that due to minority representation requirements, one of the appointments needed to be registered as a republican or unaffiliated voter.

McDonald moved, Gates 2nd, to appoint Daphne Stroud as an alternate to the Planning & Zoning Commission with a term to expire December 1, 2019.

APPROVED 3 – 0

Gates noted that a town meeting was required to confirm any appointments made to Planning and Zoning Commission and McDonald confirmed that that is the case and that a meeting would be scheduled.

McDonald moved, Olson 2nd, to appoint Alan Paradis as an alternate to the Planning & Zoning Commission with a term to expire December 1, 2020.

APPROVED 3 – 0

Olson thanked all interested people for stepping up and volunteering to participate on the Planning and Zoning Commission and encouraged each of them to continue to participate. Gates agreed.

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

Ms. Samuels enquired about the names of other applicants to the P&Z; McDonald confirmed they are Gary Clark and Roger Williams.

McDonald announced that the Public Hearing for the Town Budget is going to be on May 7 and the Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 20, both at 7:30 pm in the Town Hall Auditorium. McDonald added that there will be an informational meeting scheduled for April 30 at the Town Hall Auditorium in order to have a conversation about the education budgets and impact on General Gov't budget. This meeting is being scheduled because the Reg. 4 referendum is scheduled for the same day as the Public Hearing, and the town will already have voted before any public discussion can have taken place.

Gates recommended that Trooper Taylor attend a Selectmen's meeting to update the town on police matters. Ms. Samuels commented on Main Street traffic.

Mr. Larson asked whether there had been any consideration to expanding the size of P&Z. McDonald answered that a survey of Middlesex and New London Counties had been done and that Deep River fell well within the median of commission size.

Ms. Samuels commented that term limits might be appropriate, and suggested the possibility of pulling from outside the community for members of commissions if we cannot populate from within the community.

McDonald commented that many commissions, like Parks and Recreation and Economic Development have been shorthanded for quite some time.

Ms. Samuels asked what other avenue there might be to advertise vacancies.

Mr. Lucarelli asked the names of the two people appointed to P&Z. McDonald told him Ms. Stroud and Mr. Paradis. Mr. Lucarelli commented that he had not heard of Mr. Paradis before and McDonald responded that Mr. Paradis had been mentioned at each meeting that applicant's names were asked.

Mr. DiNello asked what the average education budget is for towns the size of Deep River. McDonald responded that he did not know, but that the percentage of the overall budget of 70% - 75% was not out of line with Deep River historically. Discussion regarding ADM and the size of towns that are joined via regionalization and cost.

Mr. Thompson commented that some boards or commissions might be off-putting or unwelcoming to new members and that old timers have ideas of how things should work, but that new timers will bring fresh ideas. Brief discussion followed.

Ms. Samuels asked about the hiring process for the Zoning Enforcement Officer, McDonald explained that he and the P&Z Chair were meeting with the RiverCOG in the first week of May to determine how best to move forward.

Mr. Bolduc asked if it was possible to improve communication between CIWC and P&Z, followed by a brief discussion.

Adjournment:

Olson moved, Gates 2nd, to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's meeting at 6:49 pm.

APPROVED 3 - 0