



# BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

## RICHARD H. SMITH TOWN HALL

**XX Regular Meeting**

Special Meeting

**Date: July 27, 2021**

**Time: 6:30 PM**

### **Regular Meeting of July 27, 2021**

**Attendance:** Selectmen: Angus McDonald, Duane Gates; Joyce Berardis (Selectman's Asst); Residents: Tim Lee, Mike DiNello, Jane Samuels (exited at 7:00pm); Elizabeth Reinhart (Valley Courier); Margot Burns (RiverCOG)

### **Call to Order:**

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

### **Approve minutes from regular meeting held on July 13, 2021:**

Gates moved, Olson 2nd, to approve minutes from Regular Meeting held on July 13, 2021.

**APPROVED 2-0**

### **Adoption of 2021 Lower Connecticut River Valley Hazard Mitigation Resolution:**

McDonald introduced Margot Burns, the Senior Environmental Planner at RiverCOG and asked her to explain the Lower Connecticut River Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan. Ms. Burns noted that the purpose of the plan is to reduce loss of life and reduce damage to property and infrastructure due to natural hazards such as flooding, thereby reducing costs to residents, businesses and municipal services. The plan entitles the Town of Deep River to apply for FEMA grants for natural hazard mitigation and needs to be updated every five years. Fifteen of the

seventeen municipalities in RiverCOG participate in this plan; McDonald is the Town's Regional Planning Team Representative. Burns went on to explain that several regional and town projects are allowed through this plan and FEMA requests that the projects undertaken try and be completed within five years. The grants vary in monetary size. McDonald read the Resolution into the minutes.

Gates moves, McDonald 2<sup>nd</sup> to adopt the 2021 Lower Connecticut River Valley Hazard Mitigation Resolution.

**APPROVED 2-0**

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

Mike DiNello spoke regarding speeding issues within Deep River and his appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission. McDonald reminded DiNello of the meetings they have had with the Town's current Resident State Trooper as well as the former Resident State Trooper concerning this issue. McDonald also stated that the police force in town has recognized the concern and has increased traffic patrols and stops, with many cars being pulled over for speeding and, to his knowledge, none or not many are repeat offenders. McDonald further stated the State DOT has reviewed this situation and concluded there is not a significant speeding issue in Deep River. McDonald told DiNello he would be happy to discuss this and his request further.

Jane Samuels stated that she thinks Mr. DiNello should be appointed. McDonald reiterated to DiNello and Samuels the process of filling a vacancy on a board or commission is a very thoughtful process and the importance to the current Board of Selectmen to choose the most qualified individual to represent the residents of Deep River.

**No Action Taken, None Necessary**

**Refunds from Tax Collector:**

McDonald noted the Tax Collector requested approval of 5 tax refunds totaling \$2,940.40.

Gates moved, McDonald 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve refunds from Tax Collector in the amount of \$2,940.40.

**APPROVED 2-0**

**Fire Department Needs Assessment update (Town Meeting TBD):**

McDonald explained the Town received one proposal thus far for a Fire Department Needs Assessment and is awaiting 2 more proposals. The current proposal states the cost of the Needs Assessment totals \$15,020.00. The Town is awaiting two additional proposals however, McDonald is researching whether this can be paid for with the ARPA funds. The Needs Assessment is, in essence, an independent review of the needs of the fire department including, but not limited to, equipment, apparatus and firehouse location.

Gates moved, McDonald 2<sup>nd</sup> a recommendation to the Board of Finance to move to Town Meeting the expenditure of funds up to \$20,000.00 for the Needs Assessment.

**APPROVED 2-0**

**Deep River Elementary School roof update (Town Meeting TBD):**

McDonald noted the Town received a grant in the amount of \$132,000.00 which will allow the completion of the Deep River Elementary School roof. The existing roof was installed in 1991. For the last five years, the Town has made improvements to portions of the school roof. This grant, along with the \$25,000.00 already budgeted, will allow the Town to complete the remainder of the roof and continue with energy upgrades. McDonald stated the price of roofing materials has gone up approximately \$2,500.00.

Gates moved, McDonald 2<sup>nd</sup> a recommendation to the Board of Finance to move to Town Meeting the expenditure of funds in the amount of \$159,000.00 for the Deep River Elementary School roof repair.

**APPROVED 2-0**

**Informational discussion regarding Fire Department Financing:  
ARPA funds and various purchases:**

It was agreed to combine items #8 and #9 on the Agenda.

McDonald has reviewed more ARPA material and noted some projected capital expenses from the Fire Department may be paid through the ARPA funds as these expenses fall under Public Safety, an area covered under ARPA. Some of these expenses include breathing apparatus,

air filling stations and radios. The Town has 4 years to spend the ARPA monies and the expenses are four year capital expenditures.

**No Action Taken, None Necessary**

McDonald stated the Route 80 bridge is still on schedule. He also stated that paving should begin soon. At this time, River Road (or a portion thereof), Sylvan Terrace, Mitchell Drive, Fox Run Road and the end of Westbrook Road are scheduled to be paved. The paving will be divided among contractors.

**Adjournment:**

Gates moved, McDonald 2nd, to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's meeting at 7:17pm.

**APPROVED 2-0**