

# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## DEEP RIVER TOWN HALL

Regular Meeting – January 12, 2010

**ATTENDANCE:** Selectmen Dick Smith, Art Thompson & Dave Oliveria.  
Audience of Citizens: Rick Daniels and son, Matthew, John Greene,  
Margo Hilfinger, Rich Strukus and Charles Stannard, representing  
LocalOnlineNews

This regular meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm by Dick Smith.

**MINUTES:** Regular Meeting – December 22, 2009  
Special Meeting – January 6, 2010

Motion by Art Thompson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Oliveria, to approve both minutes as presented.

APPROVED 3-0

### Deep River Visiting Nurses Study Committee:

Smith said that he had contacted Scott Bassett, a partner in the firm of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, the Town's auditor, for his opinion concerning the Memorial Fund. Mr. Bassett advised that if the Nursing Association is not registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization, that all revenues and expenses, regardless of their origin or purpose, should be included as a part of the Town's annual audit.

Daniels responded by stating that Mr. Bassett had only heard Smith's explanation of the nature of the Fund. He explained that the fund was begun with a bequest and over many years has been subsequently replenished with other bequests and similar donations, and that it should not be under the purview of the Town of Deep River. Smith advised Daniels that he would schedule a meeting with Scott Bassett so that Daniels could discuss the subject with Bassett in person.

In response to requests for more information Daniels asserted that the DRVN Study Committee had received all requested information. Smith mentioned examples of missing information, such as the CHAP report and number of clients served. Smith went on to note the client information had been requested and had been lacking during budget workshops in FY 2008-09 and again in FY 2009-10. Thompson asked Daniels to explain his statement. Oliveria then requested some of the information that he felt was missing.

Daniels said that the VNA had been trying to increase its client base, but that there was strong competition from such other local providers as Middlesex Hospital and the Lower Valley Visiting Nurses.

Daniels asked for all questions and requests for information in writing. Smith agreed, and asked Thompson & Oliveria to forward any questions they might have to be included in his letter to Daniels. Daniels, for his part, said that he would request information from the Selectman in writing. It was agreed by all that the next meeting be scheduled as soon as possible—within the next two or three weeks—so that all areas under contention could be properly discussed.

#### Transfer Station:

Smith brought the Board of Selectmen up to date on directives from the Department of Environmental Protection regarding the Transfer Station:

- 1] **New Permit:** When the facility opened in the 1970s Deep River was issued a open-ended permit which permitted accepting up to 600 tons of material per day, with few restrictions, and with no expiration date. The rules have since changed. Of the two types of permit now issued—Individual and General—the General Permit appears to be the best option.

The town, with the help of Geoffrey Jacobson & Associates, Engineers, is working toward qualifying for the new permit. Under current rules we would be allowed to accept just 120 tons per day, with some restrictions.

The Town would pay a one-time licensing fee of \$4,000 in five annual payments of \$800.

Although we were licensed for up to 600 tons per day we never even approached that volume. The new ceiling of 120 tons per day will more than adequately cover Deep River's needs for years to come.

DEP has informed the Town and Jacobson that there is no option.

- 2] **Bulky Waste:** Early in 2009, having reached the limit imposed by the D.E.P., we ceased accepting bulky waste in our landfill. We were one of the last few towns in Connecticut to continue to operate a landfill. Now all bulky waste is deposited in roll-offs, which we then truck to Integrated Waste Technologies, which opened its bulky waste recycling plant in the Plattwood Industrial Park in 2009.

The D. E. P. informed us that, in addition to discontinuing the landfill, we must have an engineered closure plan, including topographical maps, the type and depth of materials used to cap the site, etc. Jacobson will shortly provide the Town with the cost of the closure plan, which we estimate will be about \$12,000. Implementation will probably be later this year.

**Brush:** The equipment necessary to chip the 5,000 tons of brush brought to the Transfer Station by residents—tub grinder, 18-wheel dump trucks and large excavator—is large and expensive. For the sake of efficiency it has been our practice to bid the work once a year. However, current D. E. P. rules will allow us to accumulate no more than 2,500 yards of material. Therefore, we will likely incur the expense of chipping twice a year.

- 3] **Old Tires:** The rolloff which we use to store used tires brought by residents does not have a cover. D. E. P. regulations will now require a covered rolloff.

- 4] **Ground Water:** Behind the Transfer Station building is a small stream that empties into a headwall, seeps through the bulky waste site, and emerges next to the location of the brush pile. We are in the process of dye-testing this water. Once we verify the destination of the flow we will install a large diameter pipe to carry the stream directly to the swale that is to the right of the driveway, so it will not have to seep through the former bulky waste site. The highway Department would provide labor and machinery—the only additional cost would be for the pipe itself.

As plans progress the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen will be updated.

## Handicap Access Ramp

Smith advised that all that remains to be accomplished are the handrails and finish brickwork. Paving and signage. The shop drawings for the hand rails are under review by the architect /engineer.

## Homeland Security Grant

Motion by Thompson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Oliveria, to add to the agenda for discussion and action a grant from the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security in the amount of \$76,434. The application for this communications grant will benefit all towns served by Valley Shore Emergency Communications. As the lead town Deep River will earn an administrative fee.

APPROVED 3—0

- 1] Motion by Thompson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Oliveria, to apply for the grant.

APPROVED 3—0

- 2] Motion by Thompson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Oliveria, to authorize the First Selectman to sign all documents and associated paperwork regarding the grant.

APPROVED 3—0

## Adjournment

Motion by Thompson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Oliveria, to adjourn at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard H. Smith