

# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## DEEP RIVER TOWN HALL

Regular Meeting of April 13, 2010

Attendance:

Selectmen Dick Smith, Dave Oliveria. Art Thompson was on vacation.

Carol and Bob Jenkins, Margot Hilfinger and Rich Strukus (*video recording*), Amy Winchell (*Town Clerk*)

1] Call to Order:

This meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm by Dick Smith.

2] Minutes:

Regular Meeting – March 23, 2010. Motion by Dave Oliveria, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dick Smith, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

APPROVED 2-0

3] Discuss and Act on Setting a New Date for the Nursing Service Referendum

History: the date was initially set at the close of the informational meeting on April 8, 2010, which had also been legally noticed as a Special Selectmen's Meeting. Statutes allow only a legally noticed Town Meeting to adjourn to a referendum, which must be scheduled for no less than seven nor more than 14 days from the meeting date. Because this was an informational hearing, not a Town Meeting, the seven to 14 day rule did not apply.

Therefore the referendum had to be rescheduled at this meeting of the Board of Selectmen. In this case state statutes require 30 days notice to schedule a referendum.

Motion by Oliveria, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Smith, to set a date of May 18, 2010, from noon until 8 pm, at the community room of the Deep River Library.

4] Discussion of Tax Abatement for property at 73 Kirtland Street (Map 62, Lot 11)

Motion by Oliveria, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Smith, to add this item to the agenda.

APPROVED 2-0

History: the .26-acre lot is too small to allow any type of development. Therefore real estate taxes on the property were considerably in arrears. The owners offered to transfer title to the town in lieu of unpaid taxes. In the past the town has accepted such unusable properties for a variety of reasons. Such unusable properties are of no value by themselves. When the Town assumes ownership it can then offer the property to abutters. They, in turn, can combine it with their adjacent property, which returns the “unusable” land to the tax rolls. This process benefits all parties, including the town.

The property at 73 Kirtland Street was accepted at the Special Town Meeting of 12/23/08. The final step prior to offering the property is to abate the taxes due (\$11,305.50 plus interest). A letter from Tax Collector Lisa Bibbiani detailing the taxes owed is attached to these minutes.

5] Action on Item 4]

Motion by Oliveria, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Smith, to abate the taxes and forward the matter to a Town Meeting for residents’ approval.

APPROVED 2-0

6] Referendum on Town Budget

Smith and Oliveria discussed the vote on the Fiscal Year 2010-11 budget. They agreed that the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for May 17, 2010, should adjourn to a budget referendum, as it has for the past several years.

The date for the budget referendum will be May 25, 2010, in the Community Room of the Library, from 6 am until 8 pm.

7] Any Other Business to Come Before the Board – Audience of Citizens

The audience was asked whether there were questions or comments concerning this evening's meeting or other town business.

Bob Jenkins asked Smith whether he had knowledge of letters sent by the CT DMV to truck owners requesting information about their vehicle. Evidently the intent of the letters is to ascertain whether trucks are for private use or for commercial use. He had been unsuccessful in attempts to contact the DMV for an explanation. Smith offered to investigate further if Jenkins wished.

Margo Hilfinger asked whether the one dollar per copy fee for Assessors' property cards could be waived for homeowners. As background Smith explained that some towns make their field cards available on their website. The cost to Deep River for such a service would be approximately \$2,500 a year.

Because Deep River's cards are unavailable on line, Smith agreed to research the possibility of waiving the fee for residents only. A letter from Ms. Hilfinger requesting such waivers is attached to these minutes.

Cathy Jenkins, a Winter Avenue resident, asked when Winter Avenue might be repaired. Smith advised that major work is set for this summer—drainage will be upgraded and the roadway will be entirely reclaimed and repaved.

8] Adjournment

Oliveria moved, Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>, that the meeting adjourn at 7:19.

APPROVED 2-0

att

RHS/jk