

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DEEP RIVER TOWN HALL

Regular Meeting of April 27, 2010

Attendance:

Selectmen Dick Smith, Art Thompson, Dave Oliveria, Tom Lindner (*Treasurer*). Also: Pete Woodcock, D.R.F.D. Chief, Bob Raymond, Assistant Chief, Dave Berardis, Jerry Clark, Dick Kollmer, Rich Kollmer, Bill Spitzchuch (*Fire Department*), Margot Hilfinger, Joyce Metz (*video recording*), Lori Guerette (*Finance*), Frank Halibozek, Carol & Bob Jenkins, Russ Marth (*VNA Study Committee*). Arriving toward the end of the meeting, for the joint Board of Finance / Board of Selectmen meeting: John Bauer (*Chair*), Rich Balducci, Nichole Coutant, Bud Eckenroth, Skip Routh.

1] Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 pm by Dick Smith. *This meeting remained in session during a joint meeting with the Board of Finance to act, if needed, on over expenditures of the VNA and the D.R.F.D.'s proposed building project.*

2] Minutes:

Regular Meeting of April 13, 2010. Motion by Art Thompson, 2nd by Dave Oliveria, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

APPROVED 3-0

3] Fire Department Building Proposal:

Discussion with members of the Fire Department was tabled, to be brought up during the joint meeting of the two boards.

4] Draft Budget for FY 2010-11:

Smith gave a report on the full budget proposal for FY 2010-11. He advised that the draft report would be on the Town's website the following day (April 28th).

5] Fuel Oil:

Motion by Oliveria, 2nd by Thompson, to add for discussion and possible action a contract for the Town's fuel oil needs for the next heating season.

APPROVED 3-0

Discussion: Smith advised the Board that the first quote he received from Daniels Oil was for a contracted price of \$2.799 per gallon for FY 2010-11. After discussion with Dave Daniels, a partner in the firm, the offer was lowered to \$2.76 per gallon. Thompson asked why Smith had brought the matter before the Board, since we had obtained favorable pricing in recent years. Smith explained that he did not know whether it was luck or skillful negotiating that gained us last year's price of \$2.14, but that with the rise in the cost of crude we likely would not be able to repeat our good fortune. No formal vote was taken, but Thompson and Oliveria suggested that Smith use his best judgment in locking in a price.

6] Refund to 180Main Street, LLC:

Motion by Oliveria, 2nd by Thompson, to add for discussion and action reimbursement to 180 Main Street, LLC.

APPROVED 3-0

Discussion & Action: Smith explained that 180 Main Street, LLC, owners of the Walgreens property, had posted a cash bond of \$6,000 to guarantee the installation of two benches along the Main Street arcade. The Town had also agreed to replace a broken bench at Adams, across the street, with the partnership to reimburse the Town. Total delivered cost for the three benches was \$ 2,841, leaving a balance due 180 Main Street, LLC, of \$ 3,159.

Included in the motion was an additional appropriation of \$1,849 to reimburse the Contingency line (10109—54300) for two benches purchased on behalf of 180 Main Street, LLC. Motion by Oliveria, 2nd by Thompson, to approve a total of \$5,008 to the contingency line.

APPROVED 3-0

3] Discussion of Fire Department Building Expansion (*tabled from earlier*):

Chief Pete Woodcock and Assistant Chief Bob Raymond, who is serving as Chairman of the Fire Department Building Committee, addressed the joint Selectmen / Finance Board meeting, expressing the need for additional space at the 57 Union Street

Headquarters: the present structure must be expanded to allow all apparatus sufficient space. The proposed addition would allow space for training / meeting, as well as office and storage space. The present building, built in 1960, is not ADA compliant.

Woodcock noted that the department has actively pursued grants in every area for which it qualified, including a grant to cover the cost of the expansion. Although that application was unsuccessful the department has received \$200,000 in grant funds in recent years. An application for a grant to fund an OSHA-mandated vehicle exhaust system is currently under review. The \$53,000 grant would help offset the cost of the renovations. Raymond explained that the plan was intended to serve the Town for many years to come.

Thompson and Oliveria expressed concern about utilization of the upstairs space, and felt that we should not attempt to plan the expansion too far into the future because we cannot envision how the fire service may evolve over 25 years or more. They were also concerned about the amount of space devoted to parking, and that the percentage of lot coverage is too high. Thompson described a meeting with the new Design Advisory Board. That board has requested time to consider alternatives. The D.A.B. would like to investigate the possibility of shrinking the footprint, making the proposed second floor usable immediately, rather than in the future, and reducing the area designated for parking, which might allow the 19th Century house next door to remain standing and useful. The D.A.B. agreed that any presentation they might make would not raise the architect's cost estimate of \$2.3 million.

Members of both boards agreed that the Fire Department needs more, as well as their support for an addition in some form. They suggested to Woodcock and Raymond that the informational presentation scheduled for April 29th emphasize that the design thus far was conceptual, that it represented the kinds of space needed, not a final plan, and that the maximum cost of construction would not exceed the estimated \$2.3 million. Smith agreed to attend the hearing to answer residents' concerns about funding the project.

7] Nursing Service:

Rick Daniels discussed the status of several VNA budget lines with both boards, as well as a projection of revenue for the remainder of the current fiscal year. John Bauer, Board of Finance Chair, asked whether the VNA would meet their revenue projections (approximately \$373,264). Daniels expressed his expectation that the expected revenues would be received, but that he did not have documentation on hand. Board of Finance member Eckenroth asked several times if the actual amount of over-expenditures was known. Smith advise that the deficit was nearly \$30,000,

with two months of the fiscal year remaining. Eckenroth expressed his concern that 1] there are still two months remaining, and 2] that the Board of Finance had not taken action to curtail additional expenses—additional appropriations or revenue shortfalls would negatively affect the Unappropriated Fund Balance. Smith agreed with Eckenroth. Daniels stated that similar deficits had occurred in the past, and that they had been more readily addressed. Smith noted that other departments have traditionally warned the First Selectman that shortfalls may occur, and that, in any case, the widening gap between the VNA's revenues and expenses required more vigilance on the part of both boards.

Smith recommended to the Board of Finance that Daniels attend the next joint meeting, on May 25, 2010, with his estimate of over-expenditures, as well as accounts receivables to document outstanding revenues. Smith also advised the Board of Finance that he would address the need for any additional appropriations or transfers for any departments or Commissions at that meeting. He noted that May 25th is the night that the Board of Finance will set the mill rate for FY 2010-11, and that any additional financial information will assist in determining the new tax rate.

8] 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.

Public Works employee Bob Jenkins, whose duties include hauling Transfer Station rollofs, presented a fact sheet published by Integrated Waste Solutions of Plattwood Industrial Park. Integrated processes and recycles the Town's bulky waste, which should consist only of construction and demolition debris, furniture and similar substances. Bob noted that the Town is charged \$10 extra for each propane tank or car tire, \$25 extra for air conditioners and other Freon units and \$25 for appliances.

9] Adjournment

Thompson moved, Oliveria 2nd, that the meeting adjourn at 9:38. (*The Board of Finance adjourned at the same time.*)

APPROVED 3—0

RHS/jk