

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DEEP RIVER TOWN HALL

Regular Meeting of July 27, 2010

Attendance: Selectmen Dick Smith, Art Thompson. Dave Oliveria was absent. *Also:* Tom Lindner (*Treasurer*); Margot Hilfinger, Rich Strukus (*video recording*), Bob & Cathy Jenkins; Chris Ryan, Jason Ferrandini, Victor Gonzalez (*Phoenix Theater*); Norm Bouchard, Kim Velsey, Hal Jones, Peter Jones, John Greene; Charles Bruttomesso (*Unison Site Management*). Members of the Board of Finance were present toward the end of the meeting: Rich Balducci, John Bauer, Nichole Coutant, Bud Eckenroth, Lori Guerette & Skip Routh.

1] Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:44 pm by Dick Smith.

2] Minutes:

Regular Meeting of July 13, 2010. Motion by Art Thompson, 2nd by Smith to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

APPROVED 2—0

Changes in Agenda Order:

Smith suggested that agenda items 4. and 5. be considered during the joint Board of Selectmen-Board of Finance meeting, rather than discuss them twice. Smith and Thompson agreed .

APPROVED 2—0

3] Phoenix Theater

Chris Ryan, Jason Ferrandini & Victor Gonzalez, representing the Phoenix Theater, had requested the opportunity to discuss suggestions for increasing attendance at productions they stage at the Historic Deep River Town Hall Theater. Phoenix produces several plays a year, generally running for three weekends (Friday & Saturday evenings, Sunday matinees). While audiences are growing, they are still too small to support the productions. Phoenix is a non-profit, volunteer theater company; they depend on ticket sales to offset production and advertising costs.

The Town recently began imposing a \$30 per day charge to non-Deep River groups to help cover the extra costs of electricity, water, etc., incurred by cast and audience. At the request of Chris Ryan the Selectmen agreed to waive the fee until such time as audiences grew larger.

Smith also suggested that the *Deep River News* could publicize their events, and said that their could be further discussion within the Town concerning the matter.

6] Update on DR VNA:

Smith asked Thompson to update residents on the meeting with the Judge of Probate in regard to stewardship of the VNA Memorial Fund. Present at that meeting were Judge of Probate Damon, Smith, Thompson, Town Attorney Marsh, Attorney Carol Gano of the Attorney General's Office and Rick Daniels.

After lengthy discussion those present agreed to abide by the Judge's order that the Memorial Fund be frozen, that the Treasurer Tom Lindner be appointed temporary Trustee and that the Town's tax ID number (which had been removed from the account) be restored. All conditions would be in place for 90 days, or until the Selectman, Town residents and Judge Damon approve an ordinance creating a new Nursing Board, as well as strict guidelines regarding the Fund itself. The wording would be approved by Attorney Marsh. Then residents would be asked to approve the ordinance at a Town Meeting. The Judge of Probate will also have to approved the document.

Smith noted that the draft of the ordinance and guidelines are on the Town's website (deepriverct.us), under Selectmen's Minutes, and that the Selectmen encourage comments and suggestions from residents.

7] Town Projects:

Smith presented an update on the Main Street Streetscape Phase 3, for which bids are due on August 17th. On River Road, partly as a result of damage caused by the heavy rains of last March, substantial drainage improvements have been completed. Tilcon will pulverize that section of River Road, as well as part of Doane Road. Following the reclamation those sections will be repaved. A troublesome section of Kelsey Hill Road will also be reclaimed and the drainage updated, then repaved. Smith said that he had contacted the Connecticut Water Company to see whether they might replace water lines along Winter Avenue prior to the Town's planned work (reclamation, drainage upgrades and repaving).

8] Property Obtained Through Abandonment or Tax Sales:

The Town now owns three small parcels of land with limited use. Discussion of the best method for returning the properties to private hands and to the tax rolls led to a suggestion by Thompson that they be properly advertised in local newspapers and that adjacent property owners be notified

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

Margo Hilfinger asked about the size of the Memorial Fund. Smith/Thompson replied that there are four accounts, including CDs, totaling approximately \$72,000.

Rich Strukus questioned the extent of the railings on the recently-completed handicap access ramp at the Town Hall Elm Street Entrance, suggesting that they could have been attached to the granite walls, rather than to posts set in the concrete. After discussion, Smith offered to arrange a meeting with Architect Richard King, designer of the ramp, Smith and Strukus.

The Board of Finance convened its meeting at 7:53, after which the two bodies sat simultaneously.

4] Act on Transfers and Additional Appropriations (tabled from earlier):

After reviewing the FY 2009-10 budget, and answering questions from the two Boards, the following actions were taken:

Thompson moved that all line item transfers be approved as presented and sent to the Board of Finance for their consideration. 2nd by Smith.

APPROVED 2 – 0

Thompson moved that the two additional appropriations for the VNA and for General Government Capital (road work) be approved and sent to the Board of Finance. 2nd by Smith.

APPROVED 2 – 0

Smith presented a request by the Parks and Recreations Commission to have \$5,201.33 appropriated to P-R line 10155-53089 for the purpose of buying a new scoreboard and other equipment to benefit the residents of Deep River. That is the same amount raised through sponsorship of carnivals held in 2009 and 2010 at Devitt Field. Park & Rec volunteers provided all necessary personnel other than operators of the rides. Motion by Thompson, 2nd by Smith.

APPROVED 2 – 0

5] Offer from Unison Site Management:

Representative Charles Bruttomesso of Unison presented an offer to purchase the Town's agreement with The Tower Company, the current owner. The two boards will review the proposal for discussion at their meeting on September 21st, 2010

APPROVED 2—0

Thompson moved, Smith 2nd, that the meeting adjourn at 9:20.

APPROVED 2—0

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard H. Smith, First Selectman

RHS/jk