

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DEEP RIVER TOWN HALL

Regular Meeting – April 26, 2011

Attendance: Selectmen Dick Smith, Art Thompson, Dave Oliveria. Also: Margo Hilfinger, John Greene (*videography*), Cathie Jefferson (*Zoning Enforcement Officer*), Richard Strukus, Bob and Cathy Jenkins.

This regular meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Dick Smith.

Minutes: Regular Meeting – April 12, 2011.

A motion was made by Art Thompson and seconded by Dave Oliveria to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 12, 2011.

APPROVED 3 - 0

Plan of Conservation and Development Grant

Smith reported that the town had been awarded a grant of \$12,000 by the State Office of Policy and Management (OPM). Zoning Enforcement Officer Cathie Jefferson was in attendance to explain that the State mandates all towns to update their Plan of Conservation and Development (PoCD) at least every ten years. This grant is to help defray costs incurred by the Planning and Zoning Commission during their most recent update in 2007.

A provision of the grant is that the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, must formally accept the grant.

Following discussion by the Board, Thompson offered two motions:

- 1] Authorize the First Selectman to sign the Notice of Grant Award;
- 2] Authorize the First Selectman to sign all documents and associated paperwork related to administration of the grant.

Both motions were seconded by Oliveria.

APPROVED 3 – 0

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

Margo Hilfinger asked for an update on the FY 2011-12 budget. Smith gave a summary of the proposed budget, stating that it represented a decrease in overall expenditures of approximately \$88,000, but also a loss in revenues of \$132,000. The Deep River Elementary School budget increased by \$272,000. Savings were realized in the employee benefits budget, a lower appropriation for the Connecticut River Valley Health District (CRAHD), a decrease in the cost of contracted electricity.

Smith also explained that while most revaluations result in increased property values, the difference now is that, like all towns and cities that revalued during the past two years, Deep River experienced an overall reduction in property values. There are always questions from property owners about the direct effect of revaluation on their tax bills. This year the depressed real estate market has made the comparisons more difficult.

Smith, working with Assessor Robin O'Loughlin, prepared a master list of all properties to help in comparing current assessed values (FY 2010-11) to the upcoming budget year (FY 2011-12). The report includes actual taxes paid at the current mill rate (FY 2010-11) and the amounts that will be due under the mill rate proposed for FY 2011-12: every property owner will be able to see the difference from this year to next. Smith noted that approximately 800 taxpayers will see a decrease in taxes while approximately 1,200 will see an increase.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Thompson and seconded by Oliveria to adjourn at 7:05 pm.

APPROVED 3 - 0

Richard H. Smith,
First Selectman