

# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## DEEP RIVER TOWN HALL

### Regular Meeting – October 11, 2011

**Attendance:** Selectmen Dick Smith, Art Thompson, Dave Oliveria. Also: Margo Hilfinger, Rich Strukus (*videography*); Jonathan Kastner.

This regular meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Dick Smith

**Minutes:** Regular Meeting – September 27, 2011

A motion was made by Oliveria, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thompson, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of September 27, 2011.

APPROVED 3 – 0

### **Memorandum of Agreement**

Following discussion, Thompson moved, Oliveria 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Deep River and the State of Connecticut concerning Homeland Security.

APPROVED 3 – 0

### **Addition to Agenda**

Thompson moved, Oliveria 2<sup>nd</sup>, to add to the agenda discussion of the previous Selectmen's meeting as it concerned the report submitted by the Deep River Town Hall Restoration Association (DRTHRA). Oliveria 2<sup>nd</sup>.

APPROVED 3 – 0

## Deep River Town Hall Restoration Association

Thompson submitted the following as a basis for a continuation of the discussion at the previous Selectmen's meeting concerning the Deep River Town Hall Restoration Association:

### Deep River Town Hall Restoration Association Discussion

Selectmen: October 11, 2011

At our last meeting we met with members of the Deep River Town Hall Restoration Association Board of Directors.

Outcome of that session:

Schedule a workshop focused on updating their authorization that was voted on at a town meeting in 1981, more than 30 years ago.

Dick invited Restoration Association Board of Directors to forward their proposals for wording changes to him—to be sent along to the other two selectmen.

My assumption is that communication works in both directions.

*If selectmen (individually & collectively) have proposals to make the Restoration Association should be aware of what they are prior to our workshop.*

Community should be aware that in this age of instant communication via electronic devices, the selectmen can converse with one another informally outside of meetings regarding issues that are under consideration.

*Exchange of emails expressing perspectives*

*No decisions made, just exchange of ideas.*

We are also aware that FOI regulations require that citizens be aware of the decisions made by their government officials, both elected and appointed, but also be able to view the process that led to each of those decisions.

What I am suggesting we do this evening is:

*Lay out for all to see and hear those proposed wording changes amended authorization for Restoration Association Inc.*

*Individual selectmen have individual proposals and they should be expressed Individually.*

*Determine how we will communicate those proposals to the Restoration Association Board of Directors prior to our workshop.*

Amending current authorization:

*Delete work which has been completed.*

*Substitute--Restrict to Auditorium*

*Add stipulations---Dick, Art, Dave*

Review of Financial Report presented by Restoration  
Association Board of Directors at Sept 27. 2011 meeting

Conclusions:

*Much fluctuation in investments*

Jan, 2006 \$ 240,000

Mar, 2009 \$ 171,000 (- \$ 69,000; -28.75 %)

May, 2011 \$ 297,000 (+\$126,000; +73.68 %)

Sept, 2011 (est) \$ 280,000

Growth over 5.75 years: (+\$40,000; +16.67 %)

(2.9 % annual growth)

*Volatility suggests investment is in stock market.*

*Irrevocable Endowment Fund is under consideration;*

*Irrevocable means that "no one in the future can ever take them apart to get at the money faster and deplete the fund."*

*Will not only lock up the restoration funds, but will lock the town into perpetual restoration, a never ending project dependent for annual funding on the whims of the stock market.*

Following discussion of the issues raised in his document, Thompson made the following motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Oliveria:

The Selectmen communicate to the Restoration Association Board of Directors our opposition to creating an irrevocable endowment fund, and insist that no further action be taken to create such an irrevocable fund until the Selectmen are satisfied that creation of an irrevocable endowment fund is in the best interests of the Town of Deep River, the donors to the funds, and to the restoration effort.

APPROVED 3 – 0

### Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Oliveria updated the Board of Selectmen with an offer from C L & P to provide a charging station for electric vehicles, with the town being responsible for its installation. There was basic agreement that at the rear of the library would be an appropriate location, but no final decision was reached.

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

Margo Hilfinger asked where any decisions had been made concerning the disposition of 34 River Street, the former Ambulance Headquarters. The Selectmen explained that, based on residents' comments, the major concerns were 1] that the present occupants alternative space available. Those involved are: the Fire Department (for its museum) the Emergency Operations Center, and the Drum Corps (for rehearsal) and 2] that if the property were to be sold that its historic value be preserved. Smith summed up by explaining that until suitable space is found the Board of Selectmen could not consider a sale.

### Adjournment:

Thompson moved, Oliveria 2<sup>nd</sup>, to adjourn at 7:40 pm.

APPROVED 3– 0

Respectfully submitted,

*Richard H. Smith,*  
First Selectman

RHS/jk