



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DEEP RIVER TOWN HALL

Regular Meeting – April 23, 2013

Attendance: Selectmen Dick Smith, Angus McDonald, David Oliveria; Tom Lindner (*Treasurer*); Margot Hilfinger, Richard Strukus (*videography*); Art Thompson (*DRTHARC*), Lorie Guerette, Richard Nagot.

This regular meeting was called to order at 6:50 pm by Dick Smith.

Minutes: Regular Meeting – April 9, 2013

McDonald moved, 2nd by Oliveria, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 9, 2013.

APPROVED 3 – 0

Appointments:

McDonald moved, Oliveria 2nd, to approve the appointment of Luther Moen to the Town Hall Auditorium Management Committee.

APPROVED 3 – 0

Oliveria moved, McDonald 2nd, to approve the appointments of Donald Sampson and Christopher Cope as Special Constables, terms to expire December 1, 2013.

APPROVED 3 – 0

Act on Fiscal Year 2012-13 Budget Line Adjustments:

(The Selectmen delayed their vote on this item so that the explanation of the Budget Line Adjustments could be made at the joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance, which followed).

Following an explanation by Smith, Oliveria moved, McDonald 2nd, to approve the following adjustments to the FY 2012-13 budget:

APPROVED 3 – 0

FEMA Grant – Hurricane Sandy

Revenue Line 10100-46090	\$46,833.67
Apply to Expenditure Line 10130-53044 (General Road / Highway Maintenance)	\$28,007.86
Apply balance to Expenditure Line 10130-52021 (Equipment Maintenance)	\$18,825.81

Homeland Security Grant

Revenue Line 10100-47330	\$45,000.00
Apply to Expenditure Line 10124-53024 (Valley Shore Emergency Communications)	\$45,000.00

APPROVED 3 – 0

Agricultural Council:

Following discussion, Oliveria moved, McDonald 2nd, to support the Agricultural Council and to recommend a resident to represent Deep River on the council.

APPROVED 3 – 0

Addition to Agenda:

Oliveria moved, McDonald 2nd, to add to the agenda, for discussion and action, an agreement between the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Town of Deep River. The agreement is the result of an effort by the DOT to streamline the permitting process for municipal projects that require approval by the DOT, and it was the Board's consensus that any gain in efficiency would be good for the Town.

APPROVED 3 – 0

Resolution Regarding the Proposed Agreement:

After reading the following resolution into the record, McDonald moved, Oliveria 2nd, that the Board of Selectmen approve the agreement.

APPROVED 3 – 0

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Honorable Richard H. Smith, First Selectman, is hereby authorized to sign the Agreement entitled "Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects."

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF DEEP RIVER,
CONNECTICUT, THIS 23rd DAY OF APRIL, 2013.

Clerk Amy M. Winchell

(seal)

Date

Annual Town Meeting:

Following a lengthy discussion among the Board members and residents in the audience, it was decided to hold the vote on the Town Budget at the Annual Town Meeting, which will be held on Monday May 20, 2013, at 7 pm, in the Town Hall Auditorium. The vote will be by checklist and paper ballot, supervised by the Registrars of Voters.

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

Margo Hilfinger asked the Board for an overview of the proposed FY 2013-14 Town Budget. Smith explained that increases, largely in the area of education, would require a mill increase of no more than .5 mill. Hilfinger expressed her opinion that any increase in the mill rate should be voted on by referendum. Smith said that the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance have always worked to keep expenses low, and to avoid tax increases whenever possible. He noted that in nine of the past 24 years there had been no increase, and that in all but two of the remaining 15 years mill rates have increased only slightly. Smith also noted that despite the austere budgets the Town had accomplished major infrastructure improvements.

Richard Nagot asked that every effort be made to keep tax increases as low as possible so as to not discourage residents from approving the reconstruction / expansion being studied for the Fire Department, which he felt was worthwhile and necessary. Nagot also expressed his concern about recruiting sufficient new members to maintain a viable roster. Smith noted that these are concerns being faced by all small towns, and that some have taken the step of having First Responders on the payroll to ensure sufficient response, especially daytimes, when response may be lower. To help maintain

membership Deep River has instituted two incentive programs for Firefighters—a retirement plan for long-time members, and a tax abatement that helps encourage younger members of the community to participate.

Art Thompson expressed his hope that the competition for funds throughout Town departments, coupled with efforts to maintain a low mill rate increase, would not negatively effect efforts to afford our children the best possible education.

Adjournment:

Oliveria moved, 2nd by McDonald, to adjourn at 7:55 pm.

APPROVED 3 – 0

Respectfully submitted,
Richard H. Smith,
First Selectman