



# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## DEEP RIVER TOWN HALL

Regular Meeting – February 25, 2014

**Attendance:** Selectmen Dick Smith, Angus McDonald, Jr., David Oliveria. Also: Margo Hilfinger, Rich Strukus (*videography*), Jonathan Kastner.

This regular meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm by Dick Smith.

**Minutes:** Regular Meeting of February 11, 2014

McDonald moved, Oliveria 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 11, 2014.

APPROVED 3 -0

### **Choice of Engineering Firm for Plattwood Park**

After comments from Oliveria and McDonald, Smith was in agreement that the best choice from the Town's perspective would be Nathan L. Jacobson and Associates of Chester. The general feeling was that the consistent high quality of their work, as well as their knowledge of the methods of our Public Works Department, made Jacobson the best choice.

McDonald explained that he would abstain from voting due to the fact that he is in the engineering business, and that on occasion his firm both works with and competes with Jacobson.

Oliveria moved, Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve the selection of Nathan L. Jacobson and Associates as the Town's engineering firm for the Plattwood Park project.

APPROVED 2 -0

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

Margo Hilfinger asked for an update on proposed budgets for Regional District # 4 and the Deep River Elementary School.

Smith stated that the Deep River Elementary School budget had been reduced by an additional \$2,000, which would result in a \$20,000 decrease from the current year's budget (FY 2012-13). The Region 4 budget has been reduced by an additional \$60,000, but Deep River's share of the increase is approximately \$440,000, while Chester is estimated at \$100,000 and Essex about \$30,000. The difference in the cost is due to the proportion of students from each town, reflected in a number known as the ADM (Average Daily Membership).

Hilfinger also asked for clarification on the sale of the 73 Kirtland Street property. Smith explained that A. C. Proctor, an abutting property owner, had asked him whether he would approach Sarette Builders, the purchaser, to see whether they would consider withdrawing their purchase offer in favor of Proctor. Sarette agreed, with the stipulation that they be reimbursed for costs incurred thus far for design and engineering of the site. This information was provided to Proctor. The Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance agreed that as long as the Town receives the stipulated minimum bid of \$10,000, and Proctor reimbursed Saratte, the matter of re-approving the sale to a different purchaser can be brought to a Town Meeting.

**Adjournment:**

Motion by McDonald, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Oliveria, to adjourn at 6:58 pm.

APPROVED 3-0

Respectfully submitted,

*Dick Smith*

First Selectman