



# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## DEEP RIVER TOWN HALL

Regular Meeting –April 8, 2014

First Selectman's Note: Issues discussed and acted upon at meetings of the Board of Selectmen are often part of a larger context. While their history is familiar to those present, it may not be known to people not in attendance. Beginning with these minutes I will insert historical references when they will enhance public understanding. Examples in these minutes are the discussions of the Town budget and purchase of industrial property under the heading Audience of Citizens – Any Other Matters to Come Before the Board.

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

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

**Minutes:** Regular Meeting of March 25, 2014

McDonald moved, Oliveria 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 25, 2014.

APPROVED 3 -0

### **Homeland Security Grant Approval:**

Smith explained that this recurring Homeland Security grant is shared by all towns in our part of Connecticut designated "Area 2". Following discussion, Oliveria moved, McDonald 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve the agreement as presented, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign all documents necessary to conclude the Memorandum of Agreement

with the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection-  
State Homeland Security Grant Program Region 2.

APPROVED 3-0

**Appointments:**

**Parks & Recreation Commission:** Justin Waz                      Term to Expire:              12/01/2016

Motion by McDonald, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Oliveria to appoint Justin Waz to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a term to expire 12/01/2016.

APPROVED 3-0

**WPCA:**    George Eckenroth Term to Expire:              12/01/2014  
    Arthur Thompson Term to Expire:              12/01/2014

Motion by Oliveria, 2<sup>nd</sup> by McDonald, to approve the appointment of George Eckenroth and Arthur Thompson to the WPCA for terms to expire 12/01/2014.

APPROVED 3-0

**Fire House Study Committee:**

During discussion it was noted that the findings of the previous committee included many alternatives, but no single conclusion. That committee had not been disbanded, since the Board of Selectmen felt that more study was needed. Following recent discussions with the Fire Department, the Board of Selectmen agreed to reactivate the committee and to appoint some additional members.

It was noted that earlier proposals had included a structure whose footprint was too large for the present property, and that no larger suitable alternative sites had been located. Therefore, this committee is charged as follows:

- 1            identification of a single, viable location;
- 2            a reassessment of essential space needs - - emergency vehicles, equipment storage, office, training/meeting space. Non-essentials, such as Beulah, the Ladder Wagon and other memorabilia, may have to be housed separately;
- 3            the committee's final report will be due by September 1, 2014.

The following present members and newly selected candidates were proposed:

Tim Ballantyne, Paul Carlson, Tim Lee, Angus McDonald, Dave Oliveria and Sue Watts.

Motion by Oliveria, 2<sup>nd</sup> by McDonald, to approve the committee appointments and the charge as stated.

APPROVED 3-0

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

**Budget:** Margo Hilfinger asked for an update on the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget process. Smith reported that the Board of Finance has a draft budget that would include a 0.83 mill increase. The projected rise would be due mostly to Deep River's increased share in the Regional District 4 budget.

As school attendance, officially known as Average Daily Membership (ADM), fluctuates among Chester, Deep River and Essex, it serves as the basis for each town's share of the District 4 budget. In recent years, the ratio of Deep River students to Chester and Essex students has been less; this year it has risen.

Unexpended money in the 2012/13 District 4 budget indicates that Deep River will receive a rebate of approximately \$65,000. Both the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen have agreed that this rebate, as well as any other additional revenue received during the remainder of the current Fiscal Year, should be allocated to the Town's Unappropriated Fund Balance (UFB). Funds designated for the UFB are set aside for emergency and other unforeseen major expenses.

Since the proposed mill rate increase is higher than in recent years, the Board of Selectmen agreed to submit the completed budget to referendum.

**Plattwood Industrial Park:** Smith reported that the Town recently purchased approximately four acres of industrially zoned land adjacent to Plattwood Industrial Park, from M & M Enterprises (the Mislick family). Funding will be through a continuation of the Small Cities grant program, under which the Town built its first 8,000 square foot incubator building for startup businesses in the industrial park. That original grant was provided through the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).

The Town will construct a new access road and attendant infrastructure, such as conduit for electrical and communications services, drainage, site work, etc. The property will be subdivided into three parcels, on which private companies will construct their own buildings. The difference between this phase and the original project is that the Town will not build the new buildings nor oversee rentals. Construction will be privately owned and funded. Under this program the Town will seek intermediate-sized businesses. Some companies that have benefited from the Town's incubator program, and that now have the financial resources to construct their own buildings have already shown interest in participating. This joint venture of the State of Connecticut and the Town of Deep River has proven itself and will continue to add jobs and increase tax revenues.

The original Small Cities grant included an agreement between the Town and the DECD that moneys generated by the program would be applied to continue to promote further economic expansion. The incubator concept actually exceeded the guidelines under which the grant was awarded, creating more than the minimum number of jobs required.

**Adjournment:**

Motion by McDonald, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Oliveria, to adjourn at 7:25 pm.

APPROVED 3-0

Respectfully submitted,

*Dick Smith*

First Selectman