



Regular Meeting — October 28, 2014

**Attendance:** Selectmen Dick Smith, Angus McDonald, David Oliveria, Margo Hilfinger, Rich Strukus (*videography*), Tom Lindner (*Treasurer*).

This regular meeting was called to order at 6:43 pm by Dick Smith.

**Minutes:** Regular Meeting of October 14, 2014.

Motion by McDonald, Oliveria 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 14, 2014.

APPROVED 3 – 0

### **Homeland Security Grant**

Smith gave a detailed explanation regarding receipt of a Homeland Security Grant of \$6,715 which will fund security upgrades at the Deep River Elementary School. The grant requires that the town appropriate an additional \$8,445. Motion by Oliveria, McDonald 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve the additional appropriation of \$8,445 for the security upgrades.

APPROVED 3 – 0

### **Appointments**

Motion by McDonald, Oliveria 2<sup>nd</sup>, to appoint Mazie Denison to the Deep River Housing Authority to fill a term that will expire in 2017.

APPROVED 3 – 0

### **Plattwood Industrial Park –Approval of Agreements**

Smith advised the Board that with the exception of minor editing, the final draft was identical to the version previously approved by Oliveria and McDonald. Motion by McDonald, Oliveria 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve the final version of the agreements as presented, and to forward them to a Town Meeting for Residents' approval.

APPROVED 3 – 0

### **Deep River Elementary School – Roof Repair**

Smith explained that repairs due to leaks in the flat roof between the gym and the 70s wing have not led to a permanent solution. Investigation and research into this issue lead to the conclusion that the only permanent solution would be to

construct a pitched roof that covers the entire troublesome area. In addition, a dormer will be constructed on each side of the roof which will help disguise HVAC ductwork. Estimates are in the \$40,000 to \$45,000 range, an amount that should properly be included in the next budget, fiscal year 2015-16. Until then patching the present roof should suffice.

APPROVED 3 – 0

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

Ronald Prisley, who had asked to be on the agenda, did not attend. Chief Lee, who was also scheduled, advised that he would reschedule his appearance for a future meeting.

*NOTE: the Board of Selectmen remained in session during the Board of Finance meeting that followed.*

Smith advised the Board that the Town Hall haunted house was extremely successful and that, in fact, he had never seen such a turnout at a Hallowe'en event. Smith estimated that the combination of haunted house, magician show in the Auditorium, the parade of witches and goblins along Main Street and the specials offered by local shops had drawn as many as 400 grown-ups and children.

The Board of Selectmen thanks Dean, Meg and Jared Griffin, Matt O'Keefe and Julia Wilcoxson for their many daytime, evening and weekend hours spent transforming the Town Hall basement into a Hallowe'en masterpiece, in addition to performing as a variety of scary characters for the event itself.

Smith gave an update on Town infrastructure projects and related financial issues.

Insurance: The Town received three checks for a total of \$9,602.21 from the Town's former insurance carrier, MIRMA. The agency is no longer in business, and the checks represent rebates on premiums the Town had paid.

A Highway Department employee who was absent for several weeks due to a work injury this summer (2014) received his normal wages during his absence. Our current insurance carrier, CIRMA, has reimbursed the Town, under Workers Compensation, in the amount of \$2,786.04. However, the absence necessitated an increase in other employees' overtime and a need for extra summertime help. In addition, Smith performed some of the duties of the absent employee. Depending on the severity of winter weather and other demands on Highway Department personnel throughout the remainder of FY 2014-15, Smith said that he may request a transfer of these funds back into highway department salary line at a later date.

Smith has been advised by the Department of Public Safety that the Town's share of the Resident Trooper's fringe benefits during fiscal year 2014-15 will increase to 88.47 per cent.

Infrastructure:

On Tower Hill Road, construction of the new headwall is complete. During November Tilcon will reclaim the roadbed and repave that section with asphalt: a binder course of Class 1 and an

overlay of Class 2. Tilcon will also install a leveling course on Tower Hill Lake Road, then a 1½" overlay of Class 2 asphalt.

The Connecticut Water Company has completed installation of a new 8" diameter water main on Kirtland Street as far as the intersection with Read Street. As they re-connect customers, the Water Company will replace any remaining lead service lines as well as service lines less than 1" in diameter. When that work is done, the Town will perform some drainage upgrades, after which Tilcon will reclaim the roadbed and install a 1½" Class 1 binder course. Next summer any additional preparatory work will be performed before the road is overlain with a 1½" Class 2.

The Church Street extension of the Streetscape is complete. With the exception of the granite curbing, handicapped railings and some masonry, all work was performed expertly by the Highway Department. Smith noted that the Town has received many compliments.

The last major portion of the Streetscape, at the intersection of Union and Main Streets, will be completed (by the Highway Department) shortly.

At the Elementary School, Bobby Hamblett and the Boy Scouts who worked with him have completed Bobby's Eagle Scout project: a makeover of the circle at the rear of the school. The cooperative effort between the Scouts and the Highway Department has created an attractive brick patio. A generous donation from the PTO helped defray the cost of two streetscape-style benches, which offer a relaxing, shaded haven. Finally, we replaced old, broken bituminous curbing with granite, and looking ahead, we placed two 3" conduits to meet future irrigation and lighting needs.

Also at the school, the original HVAC unit, which had failed, was replaced with an energy-efficient unit at a cost of \$12,933.57.

Coincidentally, the original HVAC unit at the Public Library also failed. Its replacement, which is significantly larger than the Elementary School unit, will be installed in November, at a cost of \$31,525.

At Town Hall, renovation of the main Conference Room is just a coat of paint away from completion. The example set by the complete restoration of the Auditorium, and other extensive renovations throughout the building, led to our choice of sheetrock for the Conference Room ceiling. Simply replacing the old drop ceiling tiles seemed out of character with our other recent work. Given the opportunity, we replaced the older fluorescent lights with more energy efficient fixtures, and added recessed, state of the art LED floodlights to illuminate wall displays.

Two wetlands crossings and rough grading of the new access road at Plattwood Industrial Park are complete. Tilcon will perform the final grading. Meanwhile, construction of the first of the three industrial buildings will begin shortly.

At both Devitt Field and Plattwood Park, the buildings have been fitted with easily operated vertical sliding doors that will make using both buildings much more pleasant. The total cost was \$6,745.40.

The Deep River Housing Authority (DRHA) will receive a grant of \$4.2 million, thanks in large measure to the efforts of Director Joann Hourigan and consultant Dale Kroop, who has previously assisted us with applications for Small Cities Grants. In addition to construction of an 18-unit addition, the grant from the Connecticut Housing Authority will fund upgrades to the original Kirtland Commons building, which opened in 1992. The combined effect of improvements to the present building, which has 26 units, and the economies of scale realized from the increased population will help provide financial stability for the entire complex. In recent years, the DRHA also received a grant of \$400,000 for infrastructure upgrades.

The current computer software shared by the Tax Collector and Assessor has not met their combined needs, and will be replaced with programs developed by Quality Data, which specializes in municipal software. As the result of negotiations, Assessor Robin O'Loughlin has attained a \$9,250 refund from the current vendor, Vision Government Solutions, Inc., which will help defray the cost of the new software. Smith explained that to expedite the conversion he had drawn the initial payment of \$4,163 from the General Government--Capital budget line (10190-54150). The total cost of the new software and maintenance is \$17,300.

Both Boards agreed that it would be best to credit the \$9,250 to the General Government—Capital line 10190 54150 to cover future payments. Motion by McDonald, Oliveria 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve the appropriation of \$9,250.

APPROVED 3 – 0

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Oliveria, McDonald 2<sup>nd</sup>, to adjourn at 8:38 pm.

APPROVED 3 – 0

Respectfully submitted,  
**Richard H. Smith**  
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