

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 16, 2011

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Monday, May 16, 2011, in the gymnasium of the Deep River Elementary School. Approximately 30 citizens attended the meeting. First Selectman Richard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. A motion to appoint Arthur R. Thompson, as moderator was made by Dave Oliveria with second by Lori Guerette. Motion carried.

The moderator appointed Town Clerk Amy Winchell as clerk of the meeting, who then read the call. A motion to accept the call of the meeting was made by Lori Guerette with second by Greg Alexander.

- 1) Approve the Town Budget for the Fiscal Year 2011—2012 in the amount of \$ 13,896,944.

This item had been removed from the call and sent to referendum vote by motion of the Board of Selectmen. The referendum will be held at the Deep River Library on Tuesday, May 24, 2011, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

DISCUSSION: Jack White questioned where revenue from the sale of the Cell Tower was and Dick explained that payment from the sale had not yet been received but would go into the non-recurring account before the beginning of the fiscal year. Money from the recent sale of a town vehicle would go into the General Fund. A motion was made by Jack White and seconded by Jan Kollmer to reduce the budget by \$75,000 and have Special Town Meetings to approve purchase of new heavy equipment and vehicles when the actual cost is known.

John Bauer, chairman of the Board of Finance, responded that the Board is not in a position at the Annual Meeting to change the budget and that it would have to be defeated at Referendum before changes could be made. Jack objected to the money from the Cell Tower sale being earmarked for specific projects without being discussed at the Special Town Meeting where said sale was approved. Dick explained that it had been discussed and decided at the Board of Finance Budget Workshops. Since item #1 had been removed from the agenda and sent to an Adjourned Town Meeting Referendum, Art declared the motion to be inappropriate so no action would be taken.

Jan Kollmer asked for clarification of several lines in the proposed budget. She questioned whether or not the Park and Recreation revenue line is too conservative. John agreed that it was conservative but that this line is largely self funded and that any increase in revenue would be offset by the subsequent increased costs.

Dollar amounts for State Grants were actual but budget cuts at the State level could change that at any time.

The Dog Warden, Bob Jenkins, has asked for a salary increase for several years as he uses his own vehicle and gas has gotten so expensive. Also, his salary is well below what other towns pay their Dog Wardens.

Employee Benefits shows a considerable reduction because of the loss of one full time employee being replaced by two part-time positions without benefits. Also, the elimination of personnel costs from the dissolution of the Deep River Visiting Nurse Association resulted in a significant savings for the town.

Fountain Hill Cemetery has suffered significant financial loss in recent years. The State mandates that a town must take responsibility for a cemetery with a crematorium should the private owner go bankrupt. The town is helping to keep that from happening with an endowment to make improvements and the Town Crew to help with maintenance. The Town has been giving this type of support to the Winthrop Cemetery for 20 years.

- 2) Authorize the Tax Collector to collect real estate taxes and personal property taxes in two semi-annual installments, the dates to be July 1, 2011 and January 1, 2012.

Authorize the Tax Collector to collect regular motor vehicle taxes in one installment, due and payable on July 1, 2011.

Authorize the Tax Collector to collect supplemental motor vehicle taxes in one installment, due and payable on January 1, 2011.

Any property tax due the Town of Deep River in an amount that does not exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) shall be due and payable in a single installment on July 1, 2011.

A motion was made to accept the above item by Lori Guerette with second by Greg Alexander.

DISCUSSION: Art Thompson explained that he had looked into making this item an ordinance but the General Statutes of Connecticut clearly state that this item must go to Town Meeting for approval. There being no further discussion a voice vote was taken and Item 2 was Approved.

3) Approve the five-year Capital Improvement Programs for 2011 through 2016.

A motion was made by Jonathan Kastner with second by Lori Guerette to accept Item 3 of the call. There being no discussion a voice vote was taken and Item 3 was Approved.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lori Guerette, with second by Donald Routh. Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Moderator: Arthur R. Thompson
Clerk: Amy M. Winchell
Adjourned: 8:06 p.m.

ATTEST: Amy M. Winchell
Deep River Town Clerk