

TOWN OF DEEP RIVER
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday March 27, 2018

The Board of Finance convened its Regular Meeting at the Deep River Town Hall on Tuesday March 27, 2018. Meeting called to order by George Eckenroth, Chairman, at 7:31 PM. Members present: Carmela Balducci, Bill Ballsieper, Lori Guerette, Russ Marth, John Wichtowski. Also present: Angus McDonald, Duane Gates, Tom Lindner.

Approval of Minutes: on MOTION made by R. Marth, seconded by J. Wichtowski, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of February 2018. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Audience of Citizens: Richard Balducci presented information concerning Region 4, the purchase of property for \$350,000, Connecticut General Statute 10-51 which **requires** school boards to give an annual reporting of funding in their reserve accounts to the town, questioned if this has been done, CGS 10-62J which allows a reduction of budgeted funding to schools based on certain specifications including decreasing student enrolment and number of students qualifying for supplemental food services programs, noted that DR will lose 32% of student enrolment in the years 2020-2030 while appreciating an increase in the elderly population and tax payers on fixed incomes. Request to the school Boards of Education to develop a plan on how they will address this reduction of student enrolment, future budget requests, staffing, and to be more frugal in the spending of tax payers dollars.

Treasurer's report: T. Lindner presented Town Deposits Report for review, noted the Financial Committee to have a meeting soon when they will receive an update on first quarter statements, pending ESC funding in April \$560,800 (balance of Education Equalization Grant and Special Education Grant), municipal aid and town aid roads would be \$200,000 if received from the State, the GF balance is approximately \$4,532,000 and remaining fiscal year expenditures are budgeted at \$4,813,000. Discussion of Incubator Building Rental Income.

Recommendation of Selectmen: no Selectmen's recommendations, update that there is still no information from the State concerning State funding which was budgeted - if it will be received, and what the next fiscal year's State budget may be. Will proceed with repairs to River Road. Have begun search for a highway department plow truck and pickup truck, discussion purchasing a chipper to share with Chester instead of renting, contact information for bidding on State vehicles.

Correspondence: Memo of February 8, 2018 from Lisa Bibbiani - Tax Collector, with the list of tax bills she requests to be added to the Suspense List, totalling \$70,607.55. On MOTION made by L. Guerette, seconded by R. Marth, to approve the list of tax bills to be added to the Suspense List, totalling \$70,607.55. Discussion noted that these tax bills are removed from arrears list and added to the Suspense List, noted these bills are still being collected, age of bills - some of which

are not that old, additional options of collection. Motion vote: yea - none, no - unanimous.
Motion FAILED.

Monthly Budget Report Review: monthly report received for review and discussion. Request to find out what is included in Miscellaneous Revenue as it is over by \$79,624, P&R software upgrade to allow online registration and payment services, tax refunds expenditures based on legal rulings. Noted GGC equipment fire dept expenditures billing includes Winthrop Station building repairs - this may be billed to the wrong line - to be reviewed. Discussion that the 2KSA Union St is the sewer project assessment. Discussion of State tax relief for the elderly, noted all indications are that the State funding probably won't be paid to the Town, the State mandates that the Town's pick up the cost of elderly rental assistance - DR share is approximately \$20,000 but the State is indicating that this won't be funded or there will be an equal reduction of funding in another line and will not be included in the State budget next year.

Other Business: draft of Town Audit report received, noted ended with \$880,000 in surplus in fiscal year 2016-2017, however this would be less expenditures taken out including the compactor cost. Not yet received bill for actuary services.

On Monday April 2 the Region 4 public hearing will be held at 7:00 pm at the library at J. Winthrop Middle School, and the referendum will be held on Wednesday May 2 at the Town library from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Discussion of how to proceed with request for the required report of reserve funding held by R4, and how to formally request a plan to address the reduction of enrolment and future budget requests. The three town's Selectmen regularly meet and will work together to present these requests to R4, SVD and DRES (and EES and CES) Boards, and how to separate out costs of buildings maintenance from student education costs.

Adjournment: on MOTION made by B. Ballsieper, seconded by R. Marth, to adjourn at 8:50PM. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori J. Guerette, CRA COA OCT-C
Vice-Chairman, Secretary
Board of Finance