

**TOWN OF DEEP RIVER**  
**Board of Finance**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday April 24, 2018**

The Board of Finance convened its Regular Meeting at the Deep River Town Hall on Tuesday April 24, 2018. Meeting called to order by George Eckenroth, Chairman, at 7:33 PM. Members present: Carmela Balducci, Bill Ballsieper, Lori Guerette, Russ Marth, John Wichtowski. Also present: Angus McDonald, Duane Gates, Bill Burdick, Tom Lindner.

**Approval of Minutes:** on MOTION made by B. Ballsieper, seconded by R. Marth, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of March 2018. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

**Audience of Citizens:** none

**Treasurer's report:** T. Lindner presented Town Deposits Report for review, noted revised date for Financial/Investments Committee meeting this week. Noted ECS funds due April 30th from the State.

A. McDonald noted ECS funds to be received will be less than budgeted, noted the shifting of funding by the State from one account to another.

**Recommendation of Selectmen:** A. McDonald noted Suspense List from tax collector as discussed during the March Regular Meeting, noted values reflect the time of updating of the suspense list in the past. Request to approve the Suspense List in the amount of \$70,607.55.

A. McDonald noted a past due bill from Attorney Watts from 2010 which has recently been brought to the attention of the Selectmen in the amount of \$16,000, A. McDonald was able to negotiate the fee down to \$9,500 and requests payment authorisation, when to make the payment, and to apply to Selectmen line 10101-52010 legal fees, this would make this line go over. Discussion on timing of making payment.

**Actions on Recommendations of the Selectmen:** On MOTION made by L. Guerette, seconded by C. Balducci, to approve the list of tax bills to be added to the Suspense List, totalling \$70,607.55. Discussion on the collection process, what is listed as in arrears, budgeted as anticipated to be collected, and noted the list is still pursued for collection. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

On MOTION by L. Guerette, seconded by B. Ballsieper, to authorise payment of \$9,500 for the past due legal bill to Attorney Watts, apply to Selectmen line 10101-52010 legal fees in this fiscal year budget. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

**Correspondence:** none

**Monthly Budget Report Review:** monthly report received for review. Discussion of specific lines including sprinkler/elevator inspection fee and auditorium, which will be researched further to determine why additional expenditures have been applied to these lines.

**Other Business:** discussion of Proposed Fiscal Year Budget 2018-19 Expenditures of \$16,993,355. Discussion of expenditures being well thought out and controlled. On MOTION made by L. Guerette, seconded by R. Marth, to approve Proposed Fiscal Year Budget 2018-19 Expenditures of \$16,993,355 which will be presented at the Town Hearing on May 1. Motion CARRIED unanimously. Further discussion on expenditures and the ability to change this amount prior to the Town Meeting, A.McDonald will look into what actions would be required if the Board decides to increase expenditures based on discussion at the Hearing and prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

Noted in this fiscal year budget there potentially could be additional State revenues of \$86,000. This is based on funding information which was not available to the Town from State Office of Policy and Management (OPM) in time for the passing of the current budget in 2017, and changes voted on by the State which increased the current Town budget funding. Noted that since there have been decreases in the amount of funds the State has indicated it will actually pay to the Town, and additional funds which may not be paid to the Town as voted on by the State.

Discussion of the potential mill rate for the next fiscal year budget, including desire to figure the increase at 0.75%, lack of confidence in the State actually honouring it's commitment to fund the Town, a prudent way to protect the Town from a shortfall by the State, concern that 0.75% is a large increase and will be a burden on taxpayers, amount in the UGF which the State may consider is large enough that the Town doesn't need funding by the State. Noted that the mill rate increase is not to increase the UGF but to hold a reserve fund that will allow the Town to be considered for future bonding, and coverage if the State doesn't honour its' commitments. Noted continuing large increases to the Region 4 and Supervision District School budgets which has required the Town to not fund other capital expenditures such as infrastructure improvements and repairs. Revenue collection is contingent on the State passing a responsible budget, honouring commitments, and then the potential mill rate increase could change. General consensus to have the postcard to residents indicate that potential mill rate increase would be 0.75% in the proposed fiscal year 2018-2019 budget.

Town Hearing to present the proposed budget on May 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium.  
Noted Region 4 and Supervision District Referendum vote is May 2 and encouragement to vote.  
Annual Town Meeting on Monday May 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

**Adjournment:** on MOTION made by R. Marth, seconded by J. Wichtowski, to adjourn at 8:32 PM.  
Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

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