

TOWN OF DEEP RIVER
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday February 26, 2019

The Board of Finance convened its Regular Meeting at the Deep River Town Hall on Tuesday February 26, 2019. Meeting called to order by George Eckenroth, Chairman, at 7:30 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 R. Marth, seconded by B. Ballsieper, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of January 2019. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Audience of Citizens: Tim Lee, Jim Dee and Scott Bowden presented information concerning a request by the Fire Department for safety equipment gear for nine new members of the fire department, five members are already qualified for interior fire fighting duties once they have passed the probation period (six months), two have already finished the probation period and two will next month. Discussion concerning use of existing equipment, need for specific equipment required for interior fire fighting duties, have researched pricing, the coats and pants take about 8-10 weeks to custom make, will apply for reimbursement through grants once funds are available. At this time the members are using gear which is currently available but which is not appropriate for use for interior fire fighting. Discussion if there are any funds in the current budget which can cover some of this expense-no, there is some funding in the equipment line, noted the vehicle maintenance line is over-expended and there are some outstanding bills pending and approximately \$12,000 the will immediately be expended in the next budget. This request will have to go to a town meeting for approval, consider transferring from the General Government Capital.

Treasurer's report: T. Lindner presented Town Deposits Report and Investment Updates for review. Discussion of how to monitor/track funding that is included in the budget such as the \$20,000 annually for the Revaluation set aside for future expenditure.

Recommendation of Selectmen: A. McDonald made the recommendation that the Fire Department request for \$34,992.62 for safety equipment gear for nine new members be sent to a town meeting for approval.

Correspondence: invitation for Fire Dept banquet March 9 at the Gelston House at 6:30, L. Guerette will reply for the Board.

Other Business: A. McDonald noted that the MIRA Tipping Fee (part of the recycling fees) will have an increase in rate per ton effective April 1 and again in July, currently the monthly billing averaging \$6,800 (more some/less others,) budgeted \$81,500 this fiscal year.

The audit has been completed, several audit recommendations are noted, including debt to be carried forward-a deficit in capital projects funds - town hall refurbishment overspent by \$50,438 (8 years ago) - requirement to reimburse the capital project line from the Unappropriated General Fund, the expenditure

has already been paid but didn't go to a town meeting for approval of payment. \$75,095 funding for the sewer project which may include road repairs done at the time of the sewer project by the same vender, this will be investigated to determine the actual amount (this is not a pending expense,) and \$83,112 of additional expenditures concerning the sewer project. Deficit of \$41,474 in School Lunch Fund in the past school year budget, there is no explanation from DRES, it is mostly payroll/operational costs, overseen at Reg 4 by new Accounts Manager, this will be researched further, noted that Chester is having a similar deficit problem.

Review of Fiscal Year 2017-2018 projections, at this point revenues exceed expenditures, this includes the additional unanticipated revenue from the State at the end of the Fiscal Year.

The State has denied the waiver on the Minimum Budget Requirement request for DRES of \$68,000, if not refunded the ECS funding next year would be cut significantly. Noted that there are safety upgrades and heating equipment maintenance issues which need to be addressed at DRES. Consideration that the reimbursement be spent on the energy enhancements and security upgrade requirements. Will have to be refunded by the end of the fiscal year.

All of the above issues which need further investigation should be accomplished by next week.

Action on Recommendation of Selectmen: R. Marth made MOTION, seconded by L. Guerette, to bring the request of \$34,992.62 for safety equipment gear for nine new fire department members to a town meeting for discussion and vote. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

On MOTION made by R. Marth, seconded by L Guerette, to bring the request of \$68,000 to be refunded to the DRES budget to a public meeting at the same time as the Fire Dept request. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Discussion to determine what the actual amount of tax receipts are from the automobiles.

Monthly Budget Report Review: monthly report received for review. Revenue from line Library ConnCard is a fixed grant from the State, Teachers Retirement Revenue line also comes from the State and is directly forwarded to the school (line correction to be made), the Unrestricted Grants aren't applied for-the State sends grant funds which we are required to account for. Town Clerk grant has been received and is being expended, and over-expenditures in sewer fees line are for the house next to the fire department-a place to hold the expenditure in the budget. Annual Report printing, as last year, will be printing two years.

Adjournment: on MOTION made by B. Ballsieper, seconded by C. Balducci, to adjourn at 9:03 PM. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

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