

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
February 10, 2009

A Special Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, in the Deep River Town Hall Conference Room. Present at the meeting were about 15 citizens. The meeting was taped for Public Access Television. First Selectman Richard H. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

A motion to nominate Richard Daniels, Jr., as moderator was made by Jeanne Nickse, with second by Lori Lenz. Motion carried. The moderator named Town Clerk Jeanne Nickse as clerk. The call was read and accepted as the call of the meeting through motion made by Richard Smith with second by Lori Lenz.

1. To approve the additional appropriation of \$32,000 for Deep River Elementary School as recommended by the Board of Finance--offset by approximately \$17,000 refund from Region 4 and grant of \$4,634 from the state.

David Oliveria asked for some background information on the additional appropriation. First Selectmen Smith explained that this is to cover special education costs. Originally the appropriation was \$131,000. The Board of Education brought it down to \$70,000. The Board of Finance asked the board to look at their budget to see if they could reduce it further, which they did. The \$32,000 will be offset by the \$17,000 from Region 4 and the State grant of \$4,634 making the actual amount due about \$7,000. Although not certain, this figure might be offset with additional monies from the State by the end of the year. If these monies are received, it would make it a wash.

The question was asked, "Why don't we wait until then to make the appropriation?" First Selectman Smith answered that the Board of Finance has chosen to address shortfalls as they come rather than waiting to the end of the fiscal year.

David Oliveria asked what assurance will we have that the additional monies, should we get them, would go toward reducing this appropriation rather than be spent on something else. Selectman Smith answered that it goes into the General Fund and cannot be spent unless an appropriation is made.

Margo Hilfinger asked that it be put into the general record that the Board of Finance vote on this appropriation at their meeting was two opposed and two in favor; the chairman broke the tie making it three in favor and two opposed. During these financial hard times, making an additional appropriation is not the best logic or financial management

First Selectman Smith explained that Regional 4 could have spent the \$17,000 or carried it over; instead they refunded the money to the

town. This is a tough year, but we also have obligations.
Municipalities are bound by mandates.

A voice vote was taken and Item 1 was APPROVED WITH 12 IN
FAVOR AND 3 AGAINST.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lori Lenz with second by Gale
Dilger. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

ATTEST: Jeanne G. Nickse, Town Clerk