



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

June 9, 2014

A Special Town Meeting was held on Monday, June 9, 2014, in the Deep River Town Hall Auditorium. In attendance were the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance, Registrars of Voters and their deputies, Representatives of DRES Board of Education and Superintendent Ruth Levy with Region 4 Business Manager Garth Sawyer. The audience consisted of approximately 100 citizens. Charlie Stannard represented the press.

Dick Smith called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. Chairman of the Board of Finance John Bauer spoke to the issue at hand. He expressed how hard the Board of Finance works to come up with a budget that provides for everyone while keeping costs as low as possible. He is very concerned that our General Fund, which should have 7%-10% of our operating budget, currently has only \$5,000. He explained that the Region 4 budget, which passed at Referendum on May 6th, is the driving force behind our increased budget and the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance are powerless to change that. While they could make further cuts, they would have to make significant cuts to Town Services that people have come to depend on.

Sarah Ingraham of Kelsey Hill Road read a statement regarding the Federal Budget for Common Core Standards and the effect it is having on the country, specifically small towns, both academically and financially. She also pointed out that a larger voter turnout for the Region 4 Budget Referendum could have overruled our adjoining towns and defeated the Region 4 Budget which is the cause of our Town Budget increase.

Richard Balducci spoke of redundancy in the Supervision District and wondered if it was necessary when no other regional school districts had a Supervision District.

Amy Petrone asked where the cuts will be made in the Elementary school budget. John Bauer explained that, even though the Elementary School portion of the Budget is larger than the Government portion, the budget cuts were equal. The Board of Finance can only decide how much to cut. The Elementary School Board of Education will have to decide where to make the cuts in their budget.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ruth Levy reported that there had been a significant decline in student enrollment so representatives from the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Education from all three towns in our region are looking for ways to cut costs while still offering excellent education opportunities to our children.

The Registrars of Voters and their deputies conducted a vote by paper ballot.

The results were in favor of approving the budget: 92 Yes / 24 No.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lori Guerette and was seconded by Angus McDonald. The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Attest: Amy M. Winchell, Town Clerk