



## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING May 18, 2015**

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Monday, May 18, 2015, in the Town Hall Auditorium. Three members of the Region #4 administration, five members of the Board of Finance, the entire Board of Selectmen, the Registrars of Voters and their deputies and approximately 35 citizens attended. First Selectman Richard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A motion to appoint Angus McDonald, Jr. as moderator of the meeting was made by David Oliveria. The motion was seconded by Lori Guerette and was approved unanimously.

The moderator appointed Town Clerk Amy Winchell as clerk of the meeting, who then read the call. A motion to accept the call of the meeting as read was made by Lori Guerette with second by Lisa Bibbiani. Motion was approved unanimously.

A motion to approve Item #1 was made by Lori Guerette and seconded by Russell Marth.

“1) Town Budget for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 in the amount of \$15,748,630.”

DISCUSSION: John Bauer, chair of the Board of Finance, made a statement regarding the many hours of hard work that goes into making a budget. He is confident that this budget is both conservative in revenues and prudent in expenditures. While our General Fund has only a 2% buffer for emergencies and the State prefers a 7% margin, this budget is conservative enough that John is comfortable with the smaller margin. A resident asked what was driving the 0.4 mill rate increase. John replied that while our Grand List had increased, that increase was eaten up by the increase in the Region #4 budget. The increase in Town based expenditures is caused by statutory Union raises, new debt from the newest phase of the sewer system, Fire Department equipment, roof repair for the Elementary School, work at Plattwood Park and the cost for the State mandated revaluation.

There being no further discussion, a vote by paper ballot was administered by Registrars of Voters Karen A. Abercrombie and Cynthia A. Cosme. **The results were 33- YES votes to 11- NO votes. Item #1 was approved.**

A motion to approve Item #2 was made by Lori Guerette and seconded by David Oliveria.

“2) To authorize the Tax Collector to collect real estate taxes and personal property taxes in two semi-annual installments, the dates to be July 1, 2015 and January 1, 2016.

To authorize the Tax Collector to collect regular motor vehicle taxes in one installment, due and payable on July 1, 2015.

To authorize the Tax Collector to collect supplemental motor vehicle taxes in one installment, due and payable on January 1, 2016.

Any property tax due the Town of Deep River in an amount that does not exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) shall be due and payable in a single installment on July 1, 2015.”



**There being no discussion, Item #2 was approved by show of hands: Yes- 28, No- 0.**

A motion to approve Item #3 was made by Russell Marth and seconded by Lori Guerette.

“3) To approve the five-year Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2016-2021.”

DISCUSSION: Upon questioning by a resident, Dick Smith explained that the Capital Project Request was a five year forecast of what various departments will be needing. The playground equipment listed under Parks & Recreation was for upgrading at Devitt Field and Plattwood Park.

**There being no further discussion, Item #3 was approved by show of hands: Yes- 24, No- 2.**

A question was raised regarding vacancies on the Local Option Elderly Circuit Breaker Program Committee. Dick assured us that appointments were being made soon.

A motion to adjourn was made by Michelle Grow, with second by Miriam Morrissey. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

ATTEST: Amy M. Winchell, Town Clerk