



## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING May 20, 2019**

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Monday, May 20, 2019, in the Richard H. Smith Town Hall Auditorium. Members of the Region #4 administration, Region #4 and Deep River Elementary School Boards of Education, Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen, the Registrars of Voters and approximately 75 residents attended. First Selectman Angus L. McDonald, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A motion to appoint Angus McDonald as moderator of the meeting was made by Jim Olson. The motion was seconded by Russell Marth 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 Duane Gates. Motion was approved unanimously.

A motion to approve Item #1 was made by Lori Guerette and seconded by Duane Gates.

### **1) Town Budget for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 in the amount of \$18,189,700.**

DISCUSSION: Board of Finance Chair, George Eckenroth, gave an overview of the Proposed 2019 -20 Budget. The Proposed Budget does not include an increase in the current mil rate. The proposed expenditures are an increase of \$633,061 over the current budget. The proposed revenues of \$18,092,078, are an increase of \$534,208 over the current budget. Expenditures in the Proposed Budget exceed revenues by \$97,621, which will be funded by the accumulated surplus in the general fund. The Proposed Budget expenditures allocates 68% to education, 25% to general government, and the remaining 7% to debt services and capital improvements.

The Proposed Budget is \$50,000 higher than that presented at the May 7 public hearing. The Board of Finance increased Road Maintenance by \$50,000 based on their expectation that the current budget will produce a surplus of approximately \$249,600, and that the current budget level is inadequate to maintain the town's roads.

The Proposed Budget includes a new firetruck, which is estimated to cost \$650,000. The Proposed Budget assumes that the new firetruck will be financed with the proceeds of a new borrowing. A fundamental assumption in the Proposed Budget is that no payment will be required on the new debt during the 2019-20 fiscal year.

The Proposed Budget assumes that the State of Connecticut will provide \$1,999,291 of financial support, which is 11.05 percent of the budget revenue. It is estimated that the town's mil rate would be approximately 4 mils higher if not for state aid.

There being no discussion, a vote by paper ballot was administered by Registrars of Voters Dale Winchell and Elizabeth Lori Gregan and deputy Tom Lindner. **The results were 77- YES votes to 2- NO votes. Item #1 was approved.**

A motion to approve Item #2 was made by Russell Marth and seconded by Bill Ballsieper.

- 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, 2019 and January 1, 2020.**

**To authorize the Tax Collector to collect regular motor vehicle taxes in one installment, due and payable on July 1, 2019.**

**To authorize the Tax Collector to collect supplemental motor vehicle taxes in one installment, due and payable on January 1, 2020.**

**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, 2019.**

There being no discussion, **Item #2 was unanimously approved** by voice vote.

A motion to approve Item #3 was made by Jim Olson and seconded by Carmela Balducci.

- 3) Approve supplemental appropriation of \$50,000 from the General Fund to General Road/Highway Maintenance 010-30-53044 for the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 as designated by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance.**

DISCUSSION: As had been mentioned in the budget presentation, the General Road/Highway Maintenance line had been increased to regain sustainability. Item #3 is to move that same amount in our current year budget to cover costs.

There being no further discussion, **Item #3 was unanimously approved** by voice vote.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Ballsieper, with second by Lori Guerette. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

ATTEST: Amy M. Winchell, Town Clerk