



## Special Town Meeting

February 6, 2024

A Special Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, in the Richard H. Smith Town Hall Auditorium. The meeting was attended by the Board of Selectmen including First Selectman Carol Jones, and Selectman Kathryn A. Russell. (Selectman Duane Gates attended a Region #4 Board of Education meeting held at the same time). Deep River Finance Director Annmarie Ryan and approximately 30 residents were also in attendance.

First Selectman Jones called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM and appointed Amy Winchell to act as clerk of the meeting. Winchell then read the call.

The motion to approve item **1.1** was made by Carmela Balducci and seconded by Ted Mackenzie:

**1. To approve expenditures from the Town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the following:**

**1. Accounting Software; Cost \$85K**

DISCUSSION: Jones introduced Annmarie Ryan, our new Finance Director. Ryan explained that our financial software was grossly outdated with a user manual dated 1996. Our auditors have strongly suggested updating our financial software. The \$85,000 would cover the one-time cost of implementing the new software, which is widely used by many municipalities in our state. There would also be a \$21,000 annual operating cost which would be worked into the budget to be discussed at a future meeting. Alan Paradis questioned the operating cost and asked why the town had not planned ahead for this replacement cost. Jones replied that it had been recommended by the town's auditors to upgrade the financial software, but it was not costed out until we hired a Finance Director in October. She analyzed our current software and made a recommendation to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance. The cost was not available when the budget was put together for F/Y 2023-2024. Russell added that this purchase will bring us up to where we should have been 15 years ago and that the annual cost is standard operating procedure.

There being no further discussion, a vote by show of hands was held. **The motion was approved with one No vote and one abstention.**

The motion to approve item **1.2** was made by Jonathan Kastner and seconded by Kate Cryder:

**2. Generator for the Town's Public Works facility of \$25K**

There being no discussion, a vote by show of hands was held. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

The motion to adjourn was made by Cryder and seconded by Bud Eckenroth. The motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.

ATTEST: Amy M. Winchell, MCTC  
Town Clerk