



Special Town Meeting
April 1, 2024

A Special Town Meeting was held on Monday, April 1, 2024, in the Richard H. Smith Town Hall. The meeting was attended by the Board of Selectmen including First Selectman Carol V. Jones, Selectman Duane A. Gates, and Selectman Kathryn A. Russell. Also in attendance were Janice Ehlemeyer (River COG), Finance Director Annmarie Ryan (left at 6:05pm), Aaron Rubin (Valley Courier), and residents Jackie Calamari, Bud Eckenroth, Jane Cavanaugh, and Mike Joia.

First Selectman Carol Jones called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Duane Gates made a motion to appoint Carol Jones as moderator which was seconded by Kathryn Russell. The motion was approved unanimously. Carol Jones appointed Paula Weglarz to act as clerk of the meeting who then read the call. Gates made a motion to accept the call as read which was seconded by Russell. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion to approve Item #1 was made by Gates and seconded by Russell.

1. To approve funding of \$21K from the current budget for accounting software licensing fee.

Discussion:

Jones said the software was recommended by the auditors and had previously been approved at a town meeting. Due to an oversight the annual licensing fee of \$21,000 was not included in the vote at that time.

There being no further discussion, a voice vote was held. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Motion to approve item #2 was made by Russell and seconded by Gates.

2. To approve interlocal agreement with the towns of Chester, Essex, and Deep River regarding Animal Control Officer.

Discussion:

According to Jones the current Animal Control Officer has been working full-time under this agreement for several months and has been doing a great job. She is employed by Essex and works under the Essex Resident Trooper. She said that this agreement was approved by the former administration, but it was never voted on by the legislative body of the town. Jones explained that the three towns had been having a difficult time employing and keeping part-time Animal Control Officers. Westbrook is interested in joining our agreement which would reduce the cost to Deep River going forward.

There being no further discussion, a voice vote was held. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Motion to approve item #3 was made by Gates and seconded by Russell.

- 3. To approve interlocal agreement between River COG Towns (Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland, Westbrook) for collection of hazardous waste.**

Discussion:

Jones thanked Janice Ehlemeyer from River Cog for coming to the meeting to answer questions. Jones said the town attorney reviewed the agreement and that it will cost more if we do not participate as we are required to provide hazardous waste removal options for residents. There is no permanent facility, instead there are roving locations with Deep River set to host a date in August. Ehlemeyer said the service is free for residents, but businesses should contact her for a quote if needed.

There being no further discussion, a voice vote was held. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

A motion to adjourn was made by Russell and seconded by Gates. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 6:12pm.

ATTEST: Paula Weglarz, Assistant Town Clerk