

Special Town Meeting June 19, 2013

Town Clerk, Debra H. Denette called the Special Town Meeting to order at 8:01 at the Town Meeting Hall, 492 Town Street, East Haddam. Approximately eighty five (85) people were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First Selectman Mark Walter motioned to nominate Deb Denette to serve as Moderator. Edward Blaschik seconded the motion. Additional nominations were solicited, none were offered. Mr. Walter motioned to close nominations, Mr. Blaschik seconded the motion. The motion closing nominations carried unanimously via voice vote. The vote appointing Deb Denette to serve as Moderator, carried unanimously via voice vote.

The Moderator briefly defined the rules of conduct and presented the call of the meeting. Ed Smith motioned to accept the call as presented, John Blaschik seconded the motion. The motion accepting the call as presented carried unanimously via voice vote.

The Moderator advised that Item 1 is to consider and discuss (but not to vote on) the Town Budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year in the amount of \$28,359,313 as recommended by the Board of Finance.

All those persons qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut, are hereby further notified that pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam have removed the above item on the call of this Special Town Meeting for submission to the voters of the Town of East Haddam who are qualified to vote at Town meetings for "yes" or "no" vote by voting machine on the following question:

Shall the Town of East Haddam budget of \$28,359,313, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014 be approved?

The vote by voting machine will be conducted at the Town Meeting Hall, East Haddam, Connecticut between the hours of twelve o'clock p.m. and eight o'clock p.m. (in absence of a contrary determination at this Town Meeting) on June 27, 2013.

Mr. Walter defined the changes made since the failure of the first budget referendum. He solicited comments. Trish Tamakowski encouraged a full day for voting.

The Moderator emphasized that determination of item #1 will be determined at referendum. She stated that absentee ballots will be available beginning tomorrow. Hearing no further discussion, the meeting proceeded.

Item 2: Mr. Blaschik motioned, Mrs. Alt seconded that the legislative body herein assembled consider and vote on the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen that the polls shall be open at six o'clock a.m. to conduct the referendum on June 27, 2013.

The cost of the referendum as discussed, the additional hours were estimated to have an impact of approximately \$800. Mr. Walter questioned whether less staff was permissible. Mrs. Alt emphasized the importance of being prepared.

There being no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote that the legislative body herein assembled direct the polls to be open at 6:00 a.m. to conduct the referendum on June 27, 2013. The motion authorizing the 6:00 a.m. start time carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item 3: Peter Govert motioned, Harvey Thomas seconded that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the power granted by the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management under section 4-66g(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes (the Small Town Economic Assistance Program Act), the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of East Haddam make an application to the State for \$431,200 in order to undertake the Center for Community Agriculture Project and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of East Haddam:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by section 4-66g(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes (STEAP).
2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Town of East Haddam in an amount not to exceed \$431,200 is hereby approved and that Mark B. Walter, the First Selectman is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with The State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of East Haddam.

Mr. Walter reviewed the creative initiative that hopes to serve as an economic model that drives small business for open space properties.

Mr. Blaschik questioned the cost of operating the facility in the future. Mr. Walter stated that it is believed that the facility will generate enough revenue to be self-funding.

The Moderator noted that there was a motion and a second that the legislative body herein assembled accept a STEAP grant in the amount of \$431,200 as discussed. The motion carried with Mr. E. Blaschik as the lone opposition.

Item 4: Ed Blaschik motioned, Mr. Walter seconded that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to accept a grant in the amount of \$2,681.00 from the Connecticut Humanities Council, Incorporated, for the "Sherlock Holmes Radio Play at Gillette Castle State Park (revenue account 79-431510-G1205 and expense account 79-541750-G1205). Mr. Walter advised that this grant helps a non-profit, the non-profit increases tourism and tourism benefits the town at large. He spoke of the significant paperwork involved with grants.

There being no further discussion, the Moderator noted that there was a motion and a second that the legislative body herein assembled, accept a grant in the amount of \$2,681.00 from the Connecticut Humanities Council, Inc. for the "Sherlock Holmes Radio play at Gillette Castle State Park. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 5: Mr. E. Blaschik motioned, Bryan Perry seconded that the legislative body herein assembled act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to accept a gift in the amount of \$16,000 from Consumers Union of United States, Inc. to the Town of East Haddam Center for Community Agriculture for a timber framed garden shed (revenue account 79-431510-G1304 and expense account 79-541750-G1304). Mr. Walter reviewed the payment in lieu of taxes agreement that benefits the Town. Patty Stricker was assured that the project will go out to bid and provide opportunity for local bidders. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 6: Mr. Govert motioned, Emmett Lyman seconded that the legislative body herein assembled act upon the recommendation of the Rathbun Free Memorial Library and the East Haddam Free Public Library and the Board of Selectmen to approve an ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to Create the East Haddam Public Library system".

Mr. Walter advised that it was a 1980's goal to unify the libraries, he noted that this has been a long work in progress, but both libraries have agreed to move forward as a unified system.

The moderator noted that there is a motion and a second that the legislative body herein assembled adopt the "ordinance to create the east Haddam public library system". The motion carried unanimously.

Item 7: Mr. Walter motioned, Mr. J. Blaschik seconded that the legislative body herein assembled act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen to dismiss with gratitude the members of the Middle School Conversion Committee. Said Committee having been duly created by legislative body of the Town of East Haddam assembled July 31, 2007, for the purpose of converting the former Middle School to Town Offices.

Mr. Blaschik emphasized with gratitude for the work done. It was noted that a new process is moving forward with two new advisory committees, one for conversion of the old middle school to new offices, the second is a renovation effort to the elementary school.

The motion dismissing, with gratitude, the Middle School Conversion Committee carried unanimously.

Item 8: Mr. Perry motioned, Nancy Haslam seconded that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a transfer in the amount of \$35,851.65 from the General Fund (781-579790) to the Board of Education Capital Reserve Fund (25-115160).

Mrs. Varricchio reported that this initiative was put in place several years ago to provide incentive for the Board of Education to not spend its funding, but to put it into capital projects for its use. The vote being taken is the remaining funding from Fiscal year 2011/2012.

The Moderator reported that there is a motion and a second that the legislative body herein assembled approve a transfer in the amount of \$35,851.65 from the General Fund to the Board of Education Capital Reserve Fund. The motion carried with Mr. Thomas as the lone dissention.

The Moderator called for a motion to adjourn to referendum.

Ed Blaschik motioned, Nancy Haslam seconded. The motion adjourned to referendum at 8:27 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Referendum Results

Moderator Lloyd Neudecker declared the polls open at 6:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m. with the following question on the ballot:

Shall the Town of East Haddam budget of \$28,359,313, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2013-2014 be approved?

The following results were announced:

Yes: 482 No: 367

The Moderator Declared the referendum passed.

An Ordinance to Create the East Haddam Public Library System

BE IT RESOLVED: That the "Ordinance to Create the East Haddam Public Library System" be added to the East Haddam Code of Ordinances.

RECITATIONS:

Whereas for many years East Haddam Free Public Library and Rathbun Free Memorial Library have been financed, managed and operated as separate and distinct public libraries in the Town of East Haddam ("Town") by separately established boards, councils, directors and trustees; and

Whereas East Haddam Free Public Library and Rathbun Free Memorial Library have requested that the Town accept responsibility for maintenance of the facilities and grounds and the operation and management of the libraries; and

Whereas the Town has agreed to accept such responsibility on the condition that the land, buildings and contents constituting Rathbun Free Memorial Library are conveyed, transferred and delivered to the Town, that the two library locations be joined under one unified library system known as East Haddam Public Library System ("System"), that one board of trustees numbering nine (9) members and one director of library services shall oversee, operate and manage the System and that the private trusts and funds supporting the maintenance, operations and management as presently constituted of both libraries continue to make substantial dollar contributions to the annual costs and expenses of the libraries;

Whereas the Probate Court, Region #14 Probate District in a decree dated January 3, 2013,
authorized the Trustee of the Norris W. Rathbun Trust under Will fbo Rathbun Free Memorial
Library to transfer the said Library's real estate, furnishings and books to the
Town;

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. ESTABLISHMENT. That East Haddam Public Library System be established; that East Haddam Free Public Library be designated the principal public library and Rathbun Free Memorial Library be made a part thereof. East Haddam Free Public Library and Rathbun Free Memorial Library shall constitute one library at two locations and all library services provided the public from said two locations shall be part of one unified library system known as East Haddam Public Library System. The library building at 36 Main Street, East Haddam, Connecticut shall continue to bear the name Rathbun Free Memorial Library, in perpetuity.

2. BOARD OF TRUSTEES. The Board of Trustees shall be the only library board operating and existing under the ordinances of East Haddam and any other board or boards, committees or councils established prior to the date of the first organizational meeting of the Board of Trustees under the ordinances of East Haddam or holding office as elected trustees of East Haddam Free Public Library

for the purpose of overseeing, managing or operating either East Haddam Free Public Library or Rathbun Free Memorial Library is abolished. The Board of Trustees may create a set of bylaws for its governance and from time to time, in the discretion of the Board, amend its bylaws.

3. MEMBERSHIP. There shall be a Board of Trustees consisting of nine (9) elected trustees whose term of office shall be six (6) years. Said trustees shall be elected in the manner provided in Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-207.

4. ELECTIONS OF 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019. In 2013 nine (9) trustees shall be elected, three (3) to a term of two (2) years and hence in 2015 to a term of six years, three (3) to a term of four (4) years and hence in 2017 to a term of six years and three to a term of six (6) years and hence in 2019 to a term of six years. Upon the election of said nine trustees to the Board of Trustees in 2013 and upon the taking of the oath of office, the Board of Trustees shall be duly constituted under the laws of the State of Connecticut and able to carry out its responsibilities as enumerated below in Section 6. Any vacancy in the office of library trustee created by death, resignation, ceasing to be an elector of East Haddam or removal from the Board of Trustees for any other reason shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Selectmen in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-220 and Section 9-167d.

5. QUORUM. The Board of Trustees shall hold an organizational meeting within thirty (30) days of the 2013 election at which a chairperson and secretary shall be elected. Five (5) trustees present shall constitute a quorum.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES. The Board of Trustees is authorized under the provisions of this ordinance and the laws of the State of Connecticut to carry out the responsibilities of trustees of the System. The trustees shall be principally responsible, in consultation with the Library Director, for developing appropriate policies for overseeing the management of the System's finances, purchasing, budgeting and accounting systems; maintenance of the buildings, interior and exterior, contents and the grounds, driveways and parking areas; hours and use of the premises by the public; developing a job description for the Library Director and evaluating the performance of the Library Director and staff; promoting gifting and other forms of private donation and fundraising; and advocating for the System to the public.

7. APPROPRIATIONS. All appropriations for the System shall be requested in accordance with the Town's established municipal budgeting procedures as determined by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance and adopted at the annual budget town meeting.

8. LIBRARY DIRECTOR. The Board of Selectmen shall hire a Library Director who shall have responsibility for the day to day operations and management of the System including assisting the Board of Trustees in developing appropriate policies for management of the System's finances, purchasing and accounting systems; maintenance of the buildings, interior and exterior, contents and the grounds, driveways and parking areas; hours and use of the premises by the public; evaluating the performance of the staff; promoting gifting and other forms of private donation and fundraising; and advocating for the System to the public.

9. CONDITION PRECEDENT TO ESTABLISHING THE SYSTEM. The conveyance, transfer and delivery of appropriate documents of title to the physical

assets consisting of the real property located at 36 Main Street, East Haddam, Connecticut and the contents and tangible personal property located in the library building situated on said real property by Bank of America, Trustee of the Norris W. Rathbun Trust fbo Rathbun Free Memorial Library as directed in the decree of the Probate Court, Region #14 Probate District dated January 3, 2013 is deemed a condition precedent to establishing the System and the Board of Trustees under this ordinance and failure or refusal of Bank of America, Trustee, to make said transfer and deliver said physical assets as authorized under the terms of the decree will render this ordinance null and void.

10. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall become effective fifteen days after publication in a newspaper having circulation in the Town of East Haddam.

Adopted at Town Meeting on the 19th day of June, 2013. Published in the Hartford Courant Press on June 25, 2013.

Dated at East Haddam, Connecticut this 20th day of June, 2013.

Mark B. Walter, First Selectman

Attest: Debra H. Denette, June 28, 2013 East Haddam Town Clerk