

**TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
BOARD OF FINANCE
Special Meeting
June 19, 2014
Town Hall**

The special meeting of the East Haddam Board of Finance was called to order at 8:10 pm by Chairman Susan Link.

In attendance:

Board of Finance Members:

Susan Link, Chairman
Robert Bennett
William DiCristofaro
Bruce Dutch
Harvey Thomas

Others:

Mark B. Walter, First Selectman
Deb Denette, Town Clerk and recording secretary
Cindy Varricchio, Finance Director
Peter Simmons, Economic Development Coordinator
Approximately ten people were present in the audience

2014-2015 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mrs. Link reported that since the budget has passed, the Board of Finance needs to set the mill rate.

Motion was made by Mr. DiCristofaro to establish the mill rate for the 2014-2015 fiscal year at 27.90 representing a budget of \$29,599,259. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MUNICIPAL TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM—EDDIE'S AUTOBODY:

Peter Simmons, Economic Development Coordinator stated that he was looking for approval for tax abatement for Eddie's Auto Body. The business added a 42,300 square foot expansion. Pursuant to the municipal tax abatement program, which grants tax abatements and tax credits to forego all or a portion of tax revenues for a short time period to induce investment and long term grand list gains qualifies for real property assessment to be fixed at \$170,065 for three years representing a tax savings of approximately \$1,330.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the tax abatement request. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Mr. Thomas inquired what the timeframe was for the other ventures Mr. Simmons was working with as identified in the May 28th memorandum. Mr. Simmons reported that he needed to work with the Assessor and the Tax Collector. Mr. Thomas requested documentation that demonstrated the impact. He also inquired if other towns in the area had similar programs. Mr. Simmons stated that he has been reviewing the programs in other towns, however, he

was not prepared tonight. Mr. Thomas stated that he would like to see comparisons as part of the analysis.

LAKES ASSOCIATION BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Last month a request was made to transfer funds within the Lakes Association budget. Moodus Reservoir did not spend \$2,602 that was allocated to it for weed control because it was working to establish a 501c(3). The request was to reallocate \$2,474 of that funding to Lake Hayward and \$128 to Bashan Lake. The net impact to the bottom line was zero.

Mr. Bennett motioned to approve the request from the Lakes Association to transfer funds as presented. Mr. DiCristofaro seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY GRANT

Mrs. Varricchio reported that no action was necessary since the matching funding for this grant was included in the budget that passed this evening. She stated that the district has until August 8, 2014 to expend the funds.

Mrs. Link noted that this was the grant that caught the Board of Finance off guard, she reminded staff of the process that the Board of Finance must approve a grant prior to submission so that the Town is aware of the financial requirements. Mrs. Varricchio stated that she took full responsibility and that she and Mr. Mansfield will make sure that all grants come forward.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Mr. Dutch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Denette