

Special Meeting

~~June 6, 2015~~

JUNE 4, 2015 (corrected 8/12/15 dhd)

Town Clerk, Debra H. Denette called the Special Town Meeting to order at 8:02 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, Town Street, Approximately 70 people were in attendance. The pledge of Allegiance was recited and an announcement made regarding the High School Girls softball team victory in the Regional State tournament.

First Selectman Mark Walter motioned to nominate Mrs. Denette as Moderator. Brad Parker seconded the motion. Additional nominations were solicited, none were offered. Joe Szech motioned to close nominations, Laurie Alt seconded the motion. The motion closing nominations carried unanimously via voice vote. The vote appointing Mrs. Denette to serve as moderator carried unanimously via voice vote.

The Moderator defined the rules of conduct and read the call of the meeting. Craig Mansfield motioned to accept the call of the meeting as read, Rob Smith seconded the motion. The motion accepting the call as read carried unanimously via voice vote..

The Moderator stated that the Selectmen have removed all items on the call to be voted upon at referendum to be held on June 16, 2015; accordingly, there will be discussion regarding each item, however, voting will not occur at this meeting.

The first item for discussion is the appropriation of \$2,707,000 for costs related to improvements at the East Haddam Elementary School; (b) to authorize the Town to issue and sell its notes and bonds pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, or any other provision of law thereto enabling, in an amount not to exceed \$2,707,000 (or so much thereof as may be necessary after the deduction of grants or other sources of funds available therefor, including, but not limited to, general fund monies and/or capital reserve funds); and (c) to authorize such other actions relating to the foregoing as may be necessary or appropriate. The question to be voted upon at referendum is as follows:

"Shall the resolution entitled, 'RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$2,707,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EAST HADDAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,707,000,' be approved? Yes or No. The ballot label for said question shall read as follows:

"Shall the Town appropriate \$2,707,000 for improvements at the East Haddam Elementary School and authorize the issuance of bonds and notes of the Town in the same amount to finance such appropriation? Yes or No.

The Moderator solicited questions and comments. T. J. Tarbox inquired about asbestos abatement, to which Mr. Mansfield responded. There being no further questions, the Moderator moved on to the next item.

To consider and discuss (but not vote on) a resolution: to appropriate \$508,000 for costs related to improvements to the Town Street Firehouse (Company No. 1) and the Moodus Firehouse (Company No. 2); (b) to authorize the Town to issue and sell its notes and bonds pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, or any other provision of law thereto enabling, in an amount not to exceed \$508,000 (or so much thereof as may be necessary after the deduction of grants or other sources of funds available therefor, including, but not limited to, general fund monies and/or capital reserve funds); and (c) to authorize such other actions relating to the foregoing as may be necessary or appropriate. The question to be voted upon at referendum is:

Shall the resolution entitled, 'RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$508,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TOWN STREET AND MOODUS FIREHOUSES AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$508,000,' be approved? Yes or No. The ballot label for said question shall read as follows:

"Shall the Town appropriate \$508,000 for improvements to the Town Street and Moodus Firehouses and authorize the issuance of bonds and notes of the Town in the same amount to finance such appropriation? Yes or No.

Questions and comments were brought forward by Mr. Tarbox, Lynne Branscombe, Rob Smith, Bob Casner, Craig Mansfield and Ed Smith. There being no further comment, the Moderator moved onto the next item.

To consider and discuss (but not vote on) a resolution: to appropriate \$2,100,000 for costs related to certain town-wide radio system improvements; (b) to authorize the Town to issue and sell its notes and bonds pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, or any other provision of law thereto enabling, in an amount not to exceed \$2,100,000 (or so much thereof as may be necessary after the deduction of grants or other sources of funds available therefor, including, but not limited to, general fund monies and/or capital reserve funds); and (c) to authorize such other actions relating to the foregoing as may be necessary or appropriate. The question to be voted upon at referendum is:

"Shall the resolution entitled, 'RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$2,100,000 FOR TOWN-WIDE RADIO SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,100,000,' be approved? Yes or No. The ballot label for said question shall read as follows:

"Shall the Town appropriate \$2,100,000 for town-wide radio system improvements and authorize the issuance of bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation? Yes or No. The Moderator solicited comments and questions, nothing was brought forward.

Lastly, the Legislative body herein assembled was asked to consider and discuss (but not vote on) a resolution to appropriate \$15,000,000 for costs related to the conversion of the former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School building for municipal offices; (b) to authorize the Town to issue and sell its notes and bonds pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, or any other provision of law thereto enabling, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000,000 (or so much thereof as may be necessary after the deduction of grants or other sources of funds available therefor, including, but not limited to, general fund monies and/or capital reserve funds); and (c) to authorize such other actions relating to the foregoing as may be necessary or appropriate. The question to be voted upon at referendum is:

"Shall the resolution entitled, 'RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$15,000,000 FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE FORMER NATHAN HALE-RAY MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000,000,' be approved? Yes or No. The ballot label for said question shall read as follows:

"Shall the Town appropriate \$15,000,000 for the conversion of the former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School building for municipal offices and authorize the issuance of bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation? Yes or No.

Mr. Walter reviewed the history of the project. Mrs. Varricchio reviewed the financial planning that has occurred to fund it. Comments and questions were raised or addressed by:

Candy Karl
 Barbara Wilkinson
 Rob Smith
 Todd Gelston
 Jim Ventres
 Dave (Silver Petrucci)
 Bob Smith
 Bob Casner
 Brad Parker

Craig Mansfield
 TJ Tarbox
 Bill Cross
 Cindy Varricchio
 Dawn Chapin
 Frank Pach
 Lynn Branscombe
 Mark Walter

Topics discussed included, but not limited to mold issues, costs over runs, new construction versus rehabilitation, Clerk of the works. Contingencies, well and septic, demolition costs, economic development, location, conversions of old schools to town halls in other towns, asbestos abatement, gymnasium needs, parking, and cost of financing.

The Moderator reminded those speaking to direct their comments to her and not to engage in open debate. At 9:45 the Moderator ended discussion and stated that the vote will be conducted on Tuesday June 16, 2015 during the hour from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Town Street, East Haddam, CT. She also advised that absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's office

beginning tomorrow morning. Voters approving the resolution will vote yes and voters opposing the resolution will vote no.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rob Smith, seconded by Mr. Ventres the Special Town Meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm to referendum on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 6:00 a.m.

Attest: Debra H. Denette, Town Clerk

Moderator Louis Saicrup declared the polls open at 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 for a capital projects multi question referendum. The Moderator closed the polls at 8:00 p.m. At 8:08 p.m. the following results were presented. The Moderator declared all four questions passed, and reviewed the votes for each question as follows:

"Shall the Town appropriate \$2,707,000 for improvements at the East Haddam Elementary School and authorize the issuance of bonds and notes of the Town in the same amount to finance such appropriation?

Yes 823 No 501

"Shall the Town appropriate \$508,000 for improvements to the Town Street and Moodus Firehouses and authorize the issuance of bonds and notes of the Town in the same amount to finance such appropriation?

Yes 1014 No 309

"Shall the Town appropriate \$2,100,000 for town-wide radio system improvements and authorize the issuance of bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation?

Yes 859 No 459

"Shall the Town appropriate \$15,000,000 for the conversion of the former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School building for municipal offices and authorize the issuance of bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation?

Yes 685 No 635

1,341 voters and tax payers cast their votes at the polls, and an additional 17 votes were cast via absentee ballot for a total voter count of 1,358.

Attest: Debra H. Denette, Town Clerk
June 18, 2015