

TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Board of Finance
Special Meeting
Joint Meeting with Board Of Selectmen
April 19, 2016
Nathan Hale Ray High School Auditorium

The Special meeting of the East Haddam Board of Finance was called to order at 7:18 pm by Chairman Raymond Willis at Nathan Hale-Ray High School Auditorium.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance:

Board of Finance Members:

Raymond Willis, Chairman
Robert Bennett, Secretary
William DiCristofaro
Bruce Dutch
Harvey Thomas

Board of Selectmen Members:

Mark Walter, First Selectman
Ernie Malavasi, Selectman

Others:

Deb Denette, Town Clerk and Recording Secretary
Bryan Perry, Chairman of the Board of Education
Brian Reas, Superintendent of Schools
Cindy Varricchio, Finance Director
Approximately 25 individuals were present in the audience

OLD BUSINESS

a. 2016-2017 Proposed Budget:

Review and Discussion: Mr. Thomas raised concern that if the State does not fulfill its requirements to the towns, particularly in the area of education, the town will be left holding the bag. He inquired if any steps should be taken to prepare for the likelihood of the occurrence. Mrs. Varricchio reported that \$260,000 has been allocated to capital reserves projects for education. She stated that there has been a conscious effort to not utilize grant funding for operating costs in the event of shortfalls in State funding. She stated that cuts will have the biggest impact on the capital plan. It was further noted that the State's budget is not finalized until after the towns.

Guests and Audience Comments: None were offered.

Vote to Send to Town Meeting:

Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to present to the Annual Budget Meeting scheduled to be called by the Board of Selectmen for May 3, 2016 at 8:00 pm at the Town Meeting Hall a total budget of \$31,150,888 based on the grand list as of October 1,

2015 of \$855,038,096. The budget would require a mill rate increase of .67 mils or a 2.9% tax increase. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion.

FAVOR: Bennett, DiCristofaro, Dutch, Willis

OPPOSED: Thomas

First Selectman Walter called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 7:25 pm during the Board of Finance meeting as both Boards were required to take action on many of the same agenda items.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Elementary School Renovation Project Amendment Resolution:

Mr. Walter requested Superintendent Reas discuss the Elementary School Renovation Project. Mr. Reas stated that there are two separate committees, one known as the East Haddam Schools Capital Improvement Building Committee that has been addressing asbestos abatement issues at the elementary school and the Elementary School Renovation Building Committee that is addressing a roof replacement, parking lot issues and boiler replacements. Mr. Reas stated that for purposes of clarity and continuity they would like to move the asbestos project to the Elementary School Renovation project. Mr. Reas also stated that the Committee's charge is to provide repairs to the parking lot; he stated that for safety concerns with keeping students from crossing bus lanes and for ADA compliance, the Board of Education would like to add a reworking of the bus route, including the construction and repair of sidewalks any parking lot and road pavement work related thereto, to the scope of the project.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MOTION/RESOLUTION:

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, an appropriation and bond authorization resolution ("Resolution") to fund certain improvements at East Haddam Elementary School (the "Project"), 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."

was submitted to the electors and citizens eligible to vote at town meetings of the town for their approval or disapproval, at a Special Town Meeting of the Town of East Haddam (the "Town") held on June 4, 2015 at the Town Hall; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, removed the Resolution on the call of the Special Town Meeting for submission to the voters for a "yes" or "no" vote by voting machine on June 16, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the voters approved the Resolution on such referendum date; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen seeks to amend the Resolution to expand the Project to include the reworking of the bus route to improve vehicle traffic flow for safety reasons, the construction and repair of sidewalks and any parking lot and road

pavement work related thereto, and seeks the approval of such amendment by the electors and citizens eligible to vote at town meetings of the Town;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF EAST HADDAM:

That the Resolution be revised as follows and that such revision be recommended to the Board of Finance for its adoption:

The language contained in the Resolution that reads:

(1) That the Town appropriate the sum of \$2,707,000 for costs related to improvements at the East Haddam Elementary School, including, without limitation, the costs of (i) the replacement, repair and renovation of roofs and the installation of a new drainage system, (ii) the replacement and installation of boilers, (iii) the remediation and removal of asbestos and PBCs in the roof and boiler areas, (iv) the pavement resurfacing, sealing and repair of the parking lots, (v) the preparation and printing of bid documents, cost estimate reports and studies, informational materials and other preliminary materials, studies and reports, and (vi) design, construction, materials, engineering, architectural, legal, administration, temporary and permanent financing, costs of issuance, printing, capitalized interest and any other costs and expenses related thereto, all of the above with such changes as the Board may approve (the "Project"). The Board is authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the Project. The Board may reduce or modify the scope of the Project if funds are insufficient to complete all components of the Project, and the entire appropriation authorized hereby may be spent on the Project as so reduced or modified.

is hereby amended to read:

(1) That the Town appropriate the sum of \$2,707,000 for costs related to improvements at the East Haddam Elementary School, including, without limitation, the costs of (i) the replacement, repair and renovation of roofs and the installation of a new drainage system, (ii) the replacement and installation of boilers, (iii) the remediation and removal of asbestos and PBCs in the roof and boiler areas, (iv) the pavement resurfacing, sealing and repair of the parking lots, (v) the reworking of the bus route, including the construction and repair of sidewalks and any parking lot and road pavement work related thereto, (vi) the preparation and printing of bid documents, cost estimate reports and studies, informational materials and other preliminary materials, studies and reports, and (vii) design, construction, materials, engineering, architectural, legal, administration, temporary and permanent financing, costs of issuance, printing, capitalized interest and any other costs and expenses related thereto, all of the above with such changes as the Board may approve (the "Project"). The Board is authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the Project. The Board may reduce or modify the scope of the Project if funds are insufficient to complete all components of the Project, and the entire appropriation authorized hereby may be spent on the Project as so reduced or modified.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that, should the Board of Finance approve the foregoing resolution, the Board of Selectmen hereby calls a Special Town Meeting of the Town to be held on

May 3, 2016 at the Town Hall located on Town Street, East Haddam, Connecticut at 8:00 p.m., and submits the foregoing resolution to the electors and citizens eligible to vote at town meetings of the Town for their approval or disapproval, at said town meeting, the notice of such meeting to be published as required by the Connecticut General Statutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD OF FINANCE MOTION/RESOLUTION

Mr. Willis requested a motion by the Board of Finance regarding the same item. He was advised that there is sufficient funding within the project to cover the additional cost.

Motion was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Thomas to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, an appropriation and bond authorization resolution ("Resolution") to fund certain improvements at East Haddam Elementary School (the "Project"), 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."

was submitted to the electors and citizens eligible to vote at town meetings of the Town for their approval or disapproval, at a Special Town Meeting of the Town of East Haddam (the "Town") held on June 4, 2015 at the Town Hall; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, removed the Resolution on the call of the Special Town Meeting for submission to the voters for a "yes" or "no" vote by voting machine on June 16, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the voters approved the Resolution on such referendum date; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Finance seeks to amend the Resolution to expand the Project to include the reworking of the bus route to improve vehicle traffic flow for safety reasons, the construction and repair of sidewalks and any parking lot and road pavement work related thereto, and seeks the approval of such amendment by the electors and citizens eligible to vote at town meetings of the Town;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EAST HADDAM:

That the Resolution be revised as follows and that such revision be recommended to the electors and citizens eligible to vote at town meetings of the Town:

The language contained in the Resolution that reads:

(1) That the Town appropriate the sum of \$2,707,000 for costs related to improvements at the East Haddam Elementary School, including, without limitation, the costs of (i) the replacement, repair and renovation of roofs and

the installation of a new drainage system, (ii) the replacement and installation of boilers, (iii) the remediation and removal of asbestos and PBCs in the roof and boiler areas, (iv) the pavement resurfacing, sealing and repair of the parking lots, (v) the preparation and printing of bid documents, cost estimate reports and studies, informational materials and other preliminary materials, studies and reports, and (vi) design, construction, materials, engineering, architectural, legal, administration, temporary and permanent financing, costs of issuance, printing, capitalized interest and any other costs and expenses related thereto, all of the above with such changes as the Board may approve (the "Project"). The Board is authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the Project. The Board may reduce or modify the scope of the Project if funds are insufficient to complete all components of the Project, and the entire appropriation authorized hereby may be spent on the Project as so reduced or modified.

is hereby amended to read:

(1) That the Town appropriate the sum of \$2,707,000 for costs related to improvements at the East Haddam Elementary School, including, without limitation, the costs of (i) the replacement, repair and renovation of roofs and the installation of a new drainage system, (ii) the replacement and installation of boilers, (iii) the remediation and removal of asbestos and PBCs in the roof and boiler areas, (iv) the pavement resurfacing, sealing and repair of the parking lots, (v) the reworking of the bus route, including the construction and repair of sidewalks and any parking lot and road pavement work related thereto, (vi) the preparation and printing of bid documents, cost estimate reports and studies, informational materials and other preliminary materials, studies and reports, and (vii) design, construction, materials, engineering, architectural, legal, administration, temporary and permanent financing, costs of issuance, printing, capitalized interest and any other costs and expenses related thereto, all of the above with such changes as the Board may approve (the "Project"). The Board is authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the Project. The Board may reduce or modify the scope of the Project if funds are insufficient to complete all components of the Project, and the entire appropriation authorized hereby may be spent on the Project as so reduced or modified.

The motion carried unanimously.

b. Grant Acceptance—Control of Aquatic Invasive Species Grant 2016—Moodus Reservoir:

Mr. Walter noted that East Haddam has received a \$6,000 grant from DEEP for the Moodus Reservoir for Control of Aquatic Invasive Species.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MOTION/RESOLUTION:

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to adopt the following resolution to be referred to the Board of Finance and then Town Meeting for approval:

RESOLVED, that a grant in an amount of \$6,000.00 is hereby accepted from the State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, to provide funding for Control of Aquatic Invasive Species Grant "Control Fanwort and Variable Milfoil at Moodus Reservoir" upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Grant Agreement.

BE IT RESOLVED, that it is in the best interest of the Town of East Haddam to enter into contracts with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS RESOLUTION, Mark B. Walter, the First Selectman, is duly authorized to enter into and sign said contracts on behalf of the Town of East Haddam. Mark B. Walter currently holds the office of First Selectman and has held that office since November 7, 2007. The First Selectman is further authorized to provide such additional information and execute such other documents as may be required by the local, state or federal government in connection with said contract and to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto.

Mr. Malavasi questioned whether there were any matching funds required. Mrs. Varricchio responded that matching funds have already been accounted for in the towns' budget.

The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD OF FINANCE MOTION:

Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to accept the Control of Aquatic Invasive Species Grant—Moodus Reservoir in the amount of \$6,000 (revenue account 33050-43000-G1601 and expense account 33055011-58820-G1601) and to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to schedule a Town Meeting for approval. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion.

Mr. Bennett inquired if this action would necessitate additional funding requests for the other lakes. Mrs. Varricchio reiterated that the Lakes Association already receive funding from the own.

The motion carried unanimously.

c. **Grant Acceptance—Foxtown Road Bridge:**

Mr. Walter explained that this resolution will authorize the design portion of this project.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MOTION/RESOLUTION:

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, that the Board of Selectmen hereby adopts the following resolution to be referred to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting for approval:

RESOLVED, That the Town Meeting accept a grant in the amount of \$265,000 for 100% of the costs for the development of contract plans, specifications and estimates in conjunction with the replacement of Foxtown Road Bridge (Bridge No. 04651) over the Eightmile River utilizing Federal and State Funds from the Highway Bridge Program. Said grant shall be funded by state and federal grants as are available to the Town.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Mark B. Walter, First Selectman, be, and hereby is, authorized to sign the agreement entitled "Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of East Haddam for the Development of Contract Plans, Specifications and Estimates in conjunction with the Replacement of the Foxtown Road Bridge (Bridge No. 04651) over the Eightmile River utilizing Federal Funds from the

Highway Bridge Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD OF FINANCE MOTION:

Motion was made by Mr. DiCristofaro to accept the Federal and State grant funds from the Highway Bridge Program in the amount of \$265,000 (a 100% grant with no town match) for the purpose of the development of contract plans, specifications and estimates in conjunction with the replacement of the Foxtown Road Bridge (Bridge No 04651) over the Eight mile River and to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to schedule a town meeting for approval. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Mr. Willis requested a motion to adjourn the Board of Finance meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Dutch to adjourn at 7:53 pm. Mr. DiCristofaro seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Denette
Recording Secretary