

Special Town Meeting
May 3, 2016

Town Clerk, Debra H. Denette called the Special Town Meeting to order at 8:02 at the Town Meeting Hall, 492 Town Street, East Haddam. Approximately fifty (50) people were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Edward Blaschik motioned to nominate Deb Denette as Moderator. Kathy Klinck seconded the motion. Additional nominations were solicited, none were offered. Mr. Blaschik motioned to close nominations, Ms. Klinck seconded the motion. The motion closing nominations carried unanimously via voice vote. The Town Clerk called for a vote appointing Deb Denette to serve as Moderator, the motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

The Moderator briefly defined the rules of conduct and presented the call of the meeting. Ms. Klinck motioned to accept the call as presented. Mr. Blaschik seconded the motion. The motion accepting the call as presented carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #1: Has been removed from the call of the meeting by the Board of Selectmen pursuant to C.G.S. Section 7-7 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 paper ballots or voting ballot labels on the following question:

Shall the Town of East Haddam budget of \$31,150,888, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017 be approved?

Todd Gelston questioned the unknowns regarding the State budget and how that would impact the Town's budget. Mrs. Varricchio responded that the town has not relied on state funding for operating, if the funding does not come through as anticipated capital projects would be reviewed.

Bill Cross had several very specific line item questions as it related to budget shortfalls this year vs next year. He was encouraged to speak with Mrs. Varricchio outside of the meeting.

Terry Dickinson questioned the reserves in the general fund and encouraged taxes to stay as flat as possible. Kim Dodge expressed concern that continual rising taxes are a detriment to those on a fixed income. Charlene Riling raised questions regarding engineering expenses paid by the Town in connection with the Banner Lodge zoning application. Mrs. Denette requested Mrs. Riling speak to Mrs. Varricchio as her questions were not germane to the 2016-2017 budget.

There being no further questions on the 2016-2017 budget, Mrs. Denette reminded the audience that the item would be determined at referendum on May 17, 2016.

Item #2: Mr. Gelston motioned, Bruce Dutch provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen that the polls shall be open at six o'clock a.m. to conduct the referendum on May 17, 2016.

Laurie Alt encouraged a No vote on this item. She stated that the Registrars feel that noon to 8:00 pm enables the majority to come out to vote and for those that cannot absentee ballots are available. Mrs. Dickinson noted the high turnout among young people for the recent presidential preference primary, she encouraged the extended hours and an effort to reach the young people to keep them involved. Mrs. Dodge also encouraged the extended hours, she stated that the additional cost is nominal in a \$31,000,000 budget.

The Moderator called for a vote on the motion to open the polls at 6:00 a.m. to conduct the budget referendum on May 17, 2016. The Moderator reiterated that a yea vote would open the polls at 6:00 am.; and that a nay vote would open the polls at 12:00 noon per State Statute Following a voice vote, she requested a show of hands. The Moderator counted 20 yea votes and 13 nay votes. The motion was declared passed indicating that the polls will open at 6:00 am. on Tuesday May 17, 2016 to conduct the referendum.

Mrs. Denette noted that items 3-5 involve renovations at the elementary school and will be discussed and voted upon one at a time. She summarized that item 3 adds reworking of the bus route to the scope of the project approved at referendum in June of 2015; item 4 removes the asbestos abatement project from the charge of the East Haddam Schools Building Committee charge and clarifies the names of the schools; item 5 amends the charge of the East Haddam Schools renovation building committee to add the asbestos abatement project (item #4) and the reworking of the bus route to the elementary school renovation building project (item #3) to the charge so that only one committee is working on the project.

Item #3. Ms. Klinck motioned, Bryan Perry provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled consider and vote on a resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance:

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 and the Board of Finance have recommended the amendment of 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 seek 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 TOWN MEETING OF THE TOWN OF EAST HADDAM:

That the Resolution is hereby revised as follows:

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 Moderator opened the floor for comments and questions. Mr. Gelston inquired what these additional modifications will cost the tax payers. Superintendent Brian Reas answered that the modifications will be done within the cost parameters approved by the voters at referendum and are necessary to address safety concerns.

There being no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion authorizing the reworking of the bus turnaround as noted in the aforementioned resolution carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #4 Mr. Blaschik motioned, Art Merrow provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen to amend the charge of the East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Building Committee as follows:

RESOLVED: That an East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Building Committee is hereby established for the purpose of the completion of the following projects:

- Electrical upgrade at the East Haddam Elementary and Former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle Schools;
- Roof replacement at the Former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School;
- Asbestos tile removal/tile replacement in the East Haddam Elementary School;
- Asbestos tile removal/tile replacement in the Former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School;
- Boiler Replacement/Asbestos Removal at the Former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School;
- Window Replacement at the Former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School;
- Roof replacement at the East Haddam Elementary School;
- Fire Alarm System at the East Haddam Elementary School;
- Chimney Replacement at the Nathan Hale-Ray High School;
- Roof Replacement at the Nathan Hale-Ray High School;
- Water Supply System Replacement at the East Haddam Elementary School;
- Asbestos ceiling tile removal/tile replacement in the Elementary School; and
- Underground oil storage tank replacement at the East Haddam Elementary School.

A copy of the entire charge, as amended, is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

It was reiterated that this item removes the asbestos project from this Committee, item #5 will add it to the charge of the Elementary School Building Renovation Committee. Responsive to inquiry from Art Merrow, Linda Zeminieski advised that these are completed projects but remain on the resolution as required by the State of Connecticut. She added that the State is also requiring clarification regarding the names of the school.

There being no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote to amend the charge of the East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Building Committee as follows:

RESOLVED: That an East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Building Committee is hereby established for the purpose of the completion of the following projects:

- Electrical upgrade at the East Haddam Elementary and Former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle Schools;
- Roof replacement at the Former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School;
- Asbestos tile removal/tile replacement in the East Haddam Elementary School;
- Asbestos tile removal/tile replacement in the Former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School;
- Boiler Replacement/Asbestos Removal at the Former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School;
- Window Replacement at the Former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School;
- Roof replacement at the East Haddam Elementary School;
- Fire Alarm System at the East Haddam Elementary School;
- Chimney Replacement at the Nathan Hale-Ray High School;
- Roof Replacement at the Nathan Hale-Ray High School;
- Water Supply System Replacement at the East Haddam Elementary School;
- Asbestos ceiling tile removal/tile replacement in the Elementary School; and
- Underground oil storage tank replacement at the East Haddam Elementary School.

The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #5: Harvey Thomas motioned, Nancy Haslam provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen to amend the charge of the Elementary School Renovation Building Committee as follows:

RESOLVED: That an Elementary School Renovation Building Committee is hereby established for the purpose of the design and construction of improvements at the East Haddam Elementary School to include (i) the replacement, repair and renovation of roofs and the installation of a new drainage system, (ii) the replacement and installation of boilers and associated equipment, (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. (iv) the repair and renovation of the parking lots and associated walkways including modifications for a dedicated parent drop-off and an addition of approximately 16,000 square feet for an isolated bus loop.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the duties of the Elementary School Renovation Building Committee include the addition of item (v) asbestos ceiling tile removal/tile replacement project.

Section 1. The Committee shall consist of 7 members and 2 alternates, to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The term of office of said members shall continue until the project is complete and accepted by the town and the committee is discharged, except that any member may resign or be removed by a vote of the Board of Selectmen at any time. Any vacancy on the Committee shall be filled by the Board of Selectmen. The Committee shall select its own chairman, vice chairman, secretary and treasurer. This committee shall answer to the Board of Selectmen and shall make quarterly progress reports to the Board of Selectmen.

Section 2. The members of the Committee shall not receive any compensation for their services. The necessary expenses of the committee shall be included in the estimated project cost and any appropriation to be requested by the Committee from the Town. All

records of the Committee shall be filed with the Town Clerk and open to public inspection in accordance with applicable state statutes.

Section 3. The Town of East Haddam Land Use Administrator, Facilities and Finance Directors as well as a Board of Education Representative will serve as advisory staff to the committee.

Section 4. The Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To consult with the Board of Education and its administrators concerning the plans for said project and its construction and the schedule therefore;

(b) To develop schematic drawings and outline specifications for the project and to review and approve all plans for said project, and to supervise and/or provide for the proper supervision of the project in the Town's best interest;

(c) To assist in the application for any grants that may be available to the Town for said project, and provide or execute any necessary documentation for such a grant application;

(d) Within the approved appropriation for items i to iv noted above of \$2,707,000, and subject to the limits thereof, to contract with architects, engineers, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the town to design, build and complete the project, and approve all design and construction expenditures for the project.

(e) Within the approved appropriation for item v added above of \$150,000, and subject to the limits thereof, to contract with architects, engineers, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the town to design, build and complete the project, and approve all design and construction expenditures for the project.

Section 5. Upon completion of the school building project, the Committee shall make a complete report and accounting to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Blaschik recalled that when this item came forward initially he took exception to Section 1. "except that any member may resign or be removed by a vote of the Board of Selectmen at any time". Mrs. Zeminieski clarified that there were three committees established at that time and two of the Committees received the modification that Mr. Blaschik referred to. It was noted that it would be appropriate to make a similar amendment at this time.

Mr. Blaschik motioned, Mr. Merrow provided a second that the resolution be amended to modify section 1 to strike "at any time " and replace with "for due cause" consistent with the other committee amendments" There being no discussion on the amendment the Moderator called for a vote on the amendment. The amendment carried unanimously via voice vote.

Mr. Gelston inquired if there was additional asbestos that still needed to be removed. Brian Reas reported that there are still a few small areas remaining, however, they are not located in an area that children utilize.

There being no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote on item #5 as amended at section 1.

RESOLVED: That an Elementary School Renovation Building Committee is hereby established for the purpose of the design and construction of improvements at the East Haddam Elementary School to include (i) the replacement, repair and renovation of roofs and the installation of a new drainage system, (ii) the replacement and installation of boilers and associated equipment, (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. (iv) the repair and renovation of the parking lots and associated walkways including modifications for a dedicated parent drop-off and an addition of approximately 16,000 square feet for an isolated bus loop.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the duties of the Elementary School Renovation Building Committee include the addition of item (v) asbestos ceiling tile removal/tile replacement project.

Section 1. The Committee shall consist of 7 members and 2 alternates, to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The term of office of said members shall continue until the project is complete and accepted by the town and the committee is discharged, except that any member may resign or be removed by a vote of the Board of Selectmen for just cause. Any vacancy on the Committee shall be filled by the Board of Selectmen. The Committee shall select its own chairman, vice chairman, secretary and treasurer. This committee shall answer to the Board of Selectmen and shall make quarterly progress reports to the Board of Selectmen.

Section 2. The members of the Committee shall not receive any compensation for their services. The necessary expenses of the committee shall be included in the estimated project cost and any appropriation to be requested by the Committee from the Town. All records of the Committee shall be filed with the Town Clerk and open to public inspection in accordance with applicable state statutes.

Section 3. The Town of East Haddam Land Use Administrator, Facilities and Finance Directors as well as a Board of Education Representative will serve as advisory staff to the committee.

Section 4. The Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) To consult with the Board of Education and its administrators concerning the plans for said project and its construction and the schedule therefore;
- (b) To develop schematic drawings and outline specifications for the project and to review and approve all plans for said project, and to supervise and/or provide for the proper supervision of the project in the Town's best interest;
- (c) To assist in the application for any grants that may be available to the Town for said project, and provide or execute any necessary documentation for such a grant application;
- (d) Within the approved appropriation for items i to iv noted above of \$2,707,000, and subject to the limits thereof, to contract with architects, engineers, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the town to design, build and complete the project, and approve all design and construction expenditures for the project.
- (e) Within the approved appropriation for item v added above of \$150,000, and subject to the limits thereof, to contract with architects, engineers, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the town to design, build and complete the project, and approve all

design and construction expenditures for the project.

Section 5. Upon completion of the school building project, the Committee shall make a complete report and accounting to the Board of Selectmen.

The motion carried unanimously.

Item #6. Mr. Dutch motioned, Mr. Smith provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance:

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" (revenue account 33050-43000-G1601 and expense account 33055011-58820-G1601) 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.

Opportunity for questions was offered. Mrs. Varricchio responded to an inquiry from Mrs. Dickinson. There being no further inquiry the Moderator called for a vote accepting the invasive species grant. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 7. Mr. Dutch motioned, Mrs. Klinck provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$476,250 (transfer to capital projects fund 10549010-59700 for expense account 33250013-48923-C0070) for the Bone Mill Road Bridge project with the understanding that the State of Connecticut has committed to fund 47.50% of the eligible project costs through the Local Bridge Program Grant.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. Marion Buck stated her belief that the costs were excessive and relayed concerns that the bridge would be larger and overbuilt for the neighborhood needs, she encouraged the vote to fail. Mrs. Link stated that both the Selectman's Office and the Public Works administrator are working with the neighbors on the design. She reiterated that this motion is to accept a State grant. Mr. Smith questioned if the \$476,000 is the total cost or the State's portion. Mrs. Varricchio responded that the total cost cannot exceed \$476,000 and that it is anticipated that the State will fund 47.50 percent of that amount. Kyle Paula, Terry Dickinson and Todd Gelston also spoke briefly on the Bone Mill Road Bridge.

The moderator called for a vote accepting State funding on the Bone Mill Road Bridge. The motion carried with Marion Buck, Teresa Dickinson, Todd and Charlotte Gelston voting in opposition.

Item #8. Mr. Dutch motioned, Melanie Kolek provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to adopt the following resolutions:

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 Moderator solicited comments and questions. Mr. Merrow noted that there are only three houses on the road in question. Mr. Smith encouraged a consistent design to be utilized among both bridges. Mrs. Buck inquired why two bridges needed to be designed and inquired why the second bridge design could not be modified from the first.

There being no additional discussion the Moderator called for a vote to accept a \$265,000 grant for 100% of the costs for the development of a replacement Foxtown Road Bridge. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #9: Mr. Gelston motioned, Mr. Merrow provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to accept a donation in the amount of \$2,618.85 from Connecticare Inc. & Associates through the 2015 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act, and to appropriate said funds to Open Space Reserve Fund (33250-43000-25022).

Opportunity for discussion was held, no comments or questions raised.

The moderator called for a vote accepting a donation from Connecticare Inc & Associates in the amount of \$2,618.85. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 10: Mr. Blaschik motioned, Mrs. Kolek provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a transfer of \$92,612.35 from the General Fund (10549010-48928) to the Board of Education Capital Reserve Fund.

Responsive to inquiry from Mr. Gelston, Mrs. Link stated that this is a procedure that was put in place several years ago providing additional incentive to the Board of Education to be fiscally prudent. She stated that to date over \$600,000 has been made available to the Board of Education to fund capital improvement projects. It was noted that the \$92,612.35 represents funds not spent from the 2014/2015 Board of Education budget.

There being no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. The motion authorizing a \$92,612.35 transfer from the General Fund to the Board of Education Capital Reserve fund carried unanimously via voice vote.

Mr. Blaschik motioned to adjourn to referendum at 9:11 pm. Ms. Klinck seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Attest: Debra H. Denette, East Haddam Town Clerk
May 9, 2016