

Special Town Meeting
March 28, 2017

Town Clerk, Debra H. Denette called the Special Town Meeting to order at 8:05 pm at the High School Auditorium, the Meeting was warned for the Town Meeting Hall, 492 Town Street, East Haddam, and moved to accommodate the anticipated crowd and parking issues associated with wet weather. Approximately 85 people people were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First Selectman Emmett Lyman motioned to nominate Deb Denette as Moderator, Eric Smith seconded the motion. Additional nominations were solicited, none were offered. Mr. Lyman motioned to close nominations. Kevin Rutty 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 read the call of the meeting. Mr. Rich Arman motioned to accept the call as read. Mr. Dutch seconded the motion. The motion accepting the call as presented carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #1 Motion by Mr. Rutty seconded by Mr. Smith that the legislative body herein assembled authorize a transfer of an amount not to exceed \$104,000 from the Fire Department Reserve Fund (3320-10506-25020) to the Firehouse Renovations Building Project for the purpose of adding an additional bay with corresponding vehicle exhaust system.

Fire Chief Brian Auld summarized the project and fielded questions. Opportunity for discussion was offered.

Terry Dickinson received clarification regarding the equipment anticipated to be stored in the new bay. It included the fire marshalls vehicle, the duty officer's vehicle, an ATV and trailer. The age of the equipment was noted. It was reported that appropriate housing will increase the longevity of whatever equipment is stored.

Joan Dill, Rich Arman, Charlene Riling, Kate O'Boye, Todd Gelston, Joanne Rocznik, Amy Moreau, Karen Blaschik, Kevin Rutty, Jay Moreau, Charlotte Gelston, Emmett Lyman and Shawn Daigle all spoke. The theme of the comments from non-firemen were concerns that this

was a want and not a need and given current budgetary concerns was not good timing. Further concerns were that the project was approved at referendum and is being modified by only a handful of individuals.

It was also noted that Company #3 will store Engine 215 when another apparatus is returned from rehab, which is expected to be at the end of April.

The Firefighters that spoke noted the importance to keep equipment under a heated roof to assure it is ready to use when needed and maximize its lifespan. Further discussion was held relative to a carefree shed that is utilized now and has water seepage issues. It was noted that the heavy equipment needs to be on a solid foundation.

It was also noted that Planning and Zoning approved had been received with the additional bay.

Cindy Varricchio fielded several questions relative to bonding and financing. She emphasized that these funds have been put aside in reserve accounts for capital expenditures associated with the fire department.

Mrs. Denette advised that she was asked to be prepared for a paper ballot, and advised that she was. She stated that if it was the will of the legislative body, a motion approving that action would be required. Mrs. Dickinson motioned to conduct the vote by paper ballot. Mr. Gelston seconded the motion. Opportunity for discussion on voting by paper ballot was offered, none was held. The motion carried unanimously.

Laurie Bennett, Deputy Registrar of Voters, verified voting privileges and Mrs. Denette provided the ballot.

The Moderator declared that the legislative body herein assembled authorized a transfer of an amount not to exceed \$104,000 from the Fire Department Reserve Fund (3320-10506-25020) to the Firehouse Renovations Building Project for the purpose of adding an additional bay with corresponding vehicle exhaust system. By a vote of 60 yes. 18 no.

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Dutch, seconded by Mr. Bennett to adjourn at 9:30 pm.

Attest: Debra H. Denette, East Haddam Town Clerk