

Special Town Meeting May 24, 2017

Town Clerk, Debra H. Denette called the Special Town Meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. at the Town Meeting Hall, 492 town Street, East Haddam. Approximately forty people attended. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Edward Blaschik motioned to nominate Deb Denette as Moderator. Laurie Alt seconded the motion. Additional nominations were solicited, none were offered. Mr. Blaschik motioned to close nominations, Ms. Alt 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. Mr. Blaschik motioned to accept the call as presented. Bruce Dutch seconded the motion. The motion accepting the call as presented carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #1 was 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 \$30,915,470, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2017-2018 be approved?

The vote by paper ballot will be conducted at the Town Meeting Hall, East Haddam, Connecticut between the hours of twelve noon and eight o'clock (pending contrary determination under item 2 of this call), on June 6, 2017.

The Moderator opened the floor to comments, none were made. The Moderator reiterated that the vote would be conducted at referendum on June 6, 2017.

Item 2. Andrew Lord motioned, Mr. 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 June 6, 2017.

The Moderator opened the floor to comments.

Todd Gelston questioned the end time, Mrs. Denette advised that it is 8:00 p.m.

Lucy Yacovino Republican Registrar of Voters encouraged a noon start time to reduce costs.

Martha Hansen, Democratic Registrar of Voters encouraged a noon start time.

Kevin Staehly, inquired about the additional cost and was told it was approximately \$1,000.

Terry Dickinson encouraged the earlier start time.

Eileen Schwartz encouraged the earlier start time.

Lisa Cahill encouraged the earlier start time.

Karan Blaschik inquired about absentee ballots. She was advised that they will be available beginning tomorrow morning, however, they are not allowed by law to be mailed.

There being no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote on the motion to open the polls at 6:00 a.m. to conduct the budget referendum on June 6, 2017. The Moderator reiterated that a yea vote would open the polls at 6:00 a.m. and that a nay vote would open the polls at 12 noon. Following a voice vote, she requested a show of hands. The Moderator counted 22 yea votes and 12 nay votes. The Motion was declared passed indicating that the polls will open at 6:00 .a.m. on Tuesday June 6, 2017 to conduct the referendum.

There being no further business to conduct, the Moderator called for a motion to adjourn to referendum on June 6, 2017 at 6:00 a.m. Motion was made by Mr. Blaschik and seconded by Mr. Dutch. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote at 8:09 pm

Attest: Debra H. Denette, Town Clerk