

Special Town Meeting July 11, 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 fifty people attended. 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 read the call of the meeting. Mr. Blaschik motioned to accept the call as read. 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 \$30,782,211, 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 July 25, 2017.

The Moderator opened the floor to comments.

Mrs. Dickinson expressed frustration that the Board of Finance does not listen to comments or suggestions from the public. She encouraged the budget vote to be tabled pending review of suggestions offered.

Mrs. Denette advised that at this point in the process, the budget cannot be altered or tabled.

Bill Cross raised specific questions relative to the town's general fund. Mr. DiCristofaro of the Board of Finance and Mrs. Varricchio, the Town's Finance Director responded to his questions. When back and forth discussion ensued, Mrs. Denette suggested that Mr. Cross meet with Mrs. Varricchio outside of the Town Meeting venue.

Ken Dalton questioned the fringe benefits line. Mrs. Varricchio addressed his question.

The Moderator reiterated that the vote would be conducted at referendum on July 25, 2017.

Item 2. Kim Barrows motioned, First Selectman Lyman 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 July 25, 2017.

The Moderator opened the floor to comments. Mr. Lyman stated that this process follows past practice.

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 July 25, 2017. With the exception of Karen Blaschik, all yeah votes were recorded. The Moderator declared the motion passed.

Item #3. Ms. Klinck motioned, Mr. Blaschik seconded that the legislative body herein assembled act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to accept a gift in the amount of \$25,000 from Consumers Union of United States Inc. for completion of the following projects in priority order pending potential budget funding in the 2017-2018 budget. Heritage Park Lighting project, LED Sign for New Municipal Complex and Senior Meals and Meals on Wheels program (revenue account 33050-43000-G1701 and expense account 3305511-58820-G1701).

Opportunity for comments and questions was presented, none were offered. The Moderator called for a vote accepting a gift in the amount of \$25,000 from Consumers Union of United States Inc. for completion of the following projects in priority order pending potential budget funding in the 2017-2018 budget. Heritage Park Lighting project, LED Sign for New Municipal Complex and Senior Meals and Meals on Wheels program (revenue account 33050-43000-G1701 and expense account 3305511-58820-G1701). The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item 4. Ms. Klinck motioned, Mr. Dutch provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled accept a grant in the amount of \$4,573 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services & public protection, division of emergency management and homeland security entitled FY2016 emergency management performance grant (revenue account 10542-43000 and expense account 10541810-5150 \$4,000 and 10541810-49490 \$573).

Mr. Gelston inquired what this would fund. Mrs. Varricchio advised that this grant would go toward the stipend paid for both the emergency management director and vice director.

There being no further questions, the Moderator called for a vote on the Motion to accept a \$4,573 grant from the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency services and public protection. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Kim Barrows motioned to adjourn to referendum as heretofore described at 8:20 p.m. Ms. Mr. Dutch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Attest: Debra H. Denette, Town Clerk