

Board of Selectmen
Nathan Hale-Ray High School Auditorium
June 27, 2017
Special Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: E. Lyman; S. Link; E. Malavasi

Also Present: E. Blaschik; T. Dickinson; D. Dill, L. Lusignan; C. Varricchio; L. Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Lyman called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.
2. 2017-2018 Proposed Budget Resolution: Mr. Lyman noted that the Board of Finance passed a motion to ask the Selectmen to send the budget to Town Meeting then referendum.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to adopt the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, that a Special Town Meeting is hereby called to be held on July 11, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. in the Town Meeting Hall on Town Street in the said Town of East Haddam, Connecticut (the "Town Meeting"), to consider the resolution recommended and approved by the Board of Finance at its meeting held on June 27, 2017 to approve the budget of \$30,782,211 for fiscal year 2017 – 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, hereby removes the item described above on the call of the Town Meeting for submission to the voters on July 25, 2017 for vote by paper ballots or voting machine ballot labels by the voters entitled to vote at the Town Meeting between the hours of twelve o'clock p.m. and eight o'clock p.m. at the Town Meeting Hall, East Haddam, Connecticut under the following heading:

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 moderator of the Town Meeting shall adjourn such meeting after reasonable discussion of such item and conclusion of such other business as may properly come before the Town Meeting and order such vote by paper ballots or voting machine ballot labels in accordance with this resolution and Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the voters at the Town Meeting shall determine whether the polls shall be open at six o'clock a.m. to conduct the referendum on July 25, 2017 and this resolution is hereby added to the agenda of such meeting.

Unanimous aye.

3. Call for Town Meeting: Mr. Lyman noted that the next step in the budget process would be for the board to approve the call for Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the following call for Town Meeting:

The Electors and citizens of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut qualified to vote in Town Meeting are hereby warned and notified that a Special Town Meeting will be held in the Town Hall on Town Street in the said Town of East Haddam at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 for the following purposes, to wit:

Item 1. To consider and discuss (but not to vote on) the Town Budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year in the amount of \$30,782,211 as recommended by the Board of Finance.

All those persons qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut, are hereby further notified that pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam have removed the above item on the call of this Special Town Meeting 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 machine 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 ballots or voting machine ballot labels will be conducted at the Town Meeting Hall, East Haddam, Connecticut between the hours of twelve o'clock p.m. and eight o'clock p.m. (in absence of a contrary determination at the Town Meeting) on July 25, 2017.

Item 2. To consider and vote on 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.

Item 3. To consider and 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 Programs (revenue account 33050-43000-G1701 and expense account 33055011-58820-G1701).

Item 4. To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to accept a grant in the amount of \$4,573.50 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, entitled "FY 2016 Emergency Management Performance Grant", (revenue account 10542-43000 and expense accounts 10541810-51510-\$4,000.00 and 10541810-51590-\$573.50).

Unanimous aye.

4. Set Mill Rate: Mr. Lyman noted that the Board of Finance cannot establish a mill rate until after a budget is adopted. He further noted that the law in Connecticut allows the Board of Selectmen, if, at the start of the new fiscal year (July 1) no budget has been adopted and the mill rate has not been established, to make a reasonable judgement about the likely expenses of the town once a budget is finally adopted, and establish a mill rate to raise an amount “sufficient to pay the current expenses of the Town,” taking into consideration inflation, contract provisions, outstanding bonding and all of the other expenses that a town normally incurs during a fiscal year.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to set the mill rate for the Town of East Haddam for fiscal year 2017-2018 at 29.58 mills in the absence of a budget being adopted by July 1, 2017 and pursuant to the authority granted the selectmen by Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-123. Unanimous aye.

5. 2017 Neighborhood Assistance Act Approvals: Mr. Lyman reported that a public hearing was held on the NAA proposals on June 26, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. and stated that the Town now needs to send the proposals to the State for final approval.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve and forward to the State for their approval two (2) projects requesting funding by the Neighborhood Assistance Act for 2017. Unanimous aye.

6. Public Comment: Ms. Dickinson commented that she had read in the newspaper something about a ruling being passed that allowed towns without a charter to wait until August 15 to set a mill rate and if that was the case why is the board taking this action now. Mr. Lyman, Ms. Link and Mr. Malavasi all commented that they were not aware of any such ruling.

Mr. Lusignan echoed Ms. Dickinson’s concerns. Ms. Varricchio was asked if she had received notice of this. Ms. Varricchio commented that she had not. Mr. Lyman further added that our Town Attorney knew that the board intended to set a mill rate at tonight’s meeting and did not share any new legislation with the board.

Ms. Dill added that maybe there was confusion in that the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management extended the time period for the Tax Collector to file her reports until August 15.

Mr. Malavasi added that his wife is also in government finance for another town and he review the process with her before the meeting and she had not mention any legislation such as this either.

7. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Link, Secretary