

## **Special Town Meeting April 24, 2018**

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 twenty 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. Brad Parker motioned to close nominations, Mr. Blaschik provided the second. 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. Karin Blaschik motioned to accept the call as presented. Greg Lauria seconded the motion. The motion accepting the call as read 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 \$31,562,517, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2018-2019 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 May 8, 2018.

The Moderator requested Mr. DiCristofaro to speak to changes that occurred in the expenditure summary that was sent out. Mr. DiCristofaro advised that there are no changes to the budget put forward by the Board of Finance, however, when the summary was prepared everything was off by one line.

Kyle Paull inquired about the changes from the Board of Education’s initial requested budget and what is being brought forward by the Board of Finance. He noted that minutes are not available on the Town’s website that would likely answer that question. Mr. DiCristofaro stated that \$150,000 for school security was removed from the education budget. A broader scope of security is being reviewed and recommendations will be brought back outside of the budget process. Additionally, savings were realized in both benefit costs and heating prices once those costs locked in. The Board of Finance further requested the Board of Education to squeeze a little tighter, and an additional \$50,000 reduction was made without an impact on programming.

Mr. DiCristofaro inquired if Superintendent Reas had anything to add. Mr. Reas reiterated that the reductions were due to reductions in benefits and heating prices; he provided assurance that security issues are not being ignored.

No further comments were offered. The Moderator reiterated that the vote would be conducted at referendum on May 8, 2018.

Item 2. Brad Parker motioned, Mr. Paull 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 8, 2018.

The Moderator opened the floor to comments. No comments were made.

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 May 8, 2018. 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. The motion opening the polls at 6:00 a.m. carried unanimously.

There being no further business to conduct, the Moderator called for a motion to adjourn to referendum on May 8, 2018 at 6:00 a.m. Motion was made by Mr. Parker; seconded by Mr. Blaschik. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote at 8:10 pm

Attest:            Debra H. Denette, Town Clerk