

**TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
BOARD OF FINANCE**

March 19, 2012
6:45 pm
Town Office Annex

Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the East Haddam Board of Finance was called to order by Chairman Paul Maxwell on Monday, March 19, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the Town Office Annex.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance:

Board of Finance Members:

Paul Maxwell, Chairman
Robert Bennett
Bruce Dutch
Susan Link
Harvey Thomas

Others:

Mark Walter, First Selectman
Cindy Varricchio, Finance Administrator
Denise Dill, Tax Collector
Deb Denette, Town Clerk and BOF recording secretary
Beth Lunt, Public Works Administrator
Board of Education Members:
Nancy Haslam, Chairman
Bryan Perry
Susan Taylor
Bill Barney
Dr. Ellen Solek, Superintendent of Schools
David Scata, Director of Pupil Services
Agriculture Commission Members:
Scott Mackinnon
Jessica Stone
Dan Alexander

Appointment of Board of Finance Member:

Mr. Maxwell noted that the purpose of the Special Meeting is to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Edward Schwenzfeier. The term of office is until the next municipal election, November 5, 2013. Mrs. Link stated that notice of the vacancy was sent to both the Democratic and Republican Town Committees and advertised on the Town's website. She stated that only one applicant came forward. She introduced Mr. Dan Alexander, a 19 year resident and an unaffiliated voter who comes to the Board with a strong accounting background.

Motion was made by Mrs. Link to appoint Mr. Alexander to the Board of Finance to fill the vacancy. Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Mr. Walter inquired as to Mr. Alexander's interest in the position. Mr. Alexander responded that he has had an interest in having more direct involvement with the town and to be a good citizen.

Mr. Thomas inquired how Mr. Alexander would view his role on the Board; as to set the direction the Town should take or to determine how much the Town should tax. Mr. Alexander after clarification of the question stated that he would view his role as a balancing act between the activities and services the Town wants with fiscal responsibility. Mr. Thomas further questioned how Mr. Alexander would determine what the Town wants to do. Mr. Alexander stated that he assumed that direction would come from the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Thomas further questioned whether Mr. Alexander felt it would be his role to question or criticize what was brought forward for financing.

Mr. Alexander again responded that he was having difficulty with the question. He reiterated, however, that it would not be his role to set the agenda but to work with the Town and its resources and to advocate for the entire Town while maintaining professional skepticism.

Mr. Maxwell stated that what Mr. Thomas is getting at is that suppose the town had an old vacant middle school and that a renovation project would cost \$13,000,000 would you just tax the people or encourage the Board of Selectmen to find a more cost effective alternative? Mr. Maxwell stated that he did not expect Mr. Alexander to answer the question.

Mr. Thomas requested that the vote be taken by role.

FAVOR: Maxwell, Link, Dutch

OPPOSED: Thomas

MOTION CARRIED.

Swearing in of Board of Finance Member:

The Town Clerk administered the oath of office to Mr. Alexander.

Motion was made by Mr. Maxwell to adjourn at 7:04 pm. Mr. Dutch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Denette