Special Town Meeting
November 5, 2020

Town Clerk, Debra H. Denette called the Special Town Meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. at the Municipal Office Complex on Town Street, East Haddam. Ten (10) people were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First Selectman, Rob Smith motioned to nominate Deb Denette as Moderator. Bob Casner seconded the motion. Additional nominations were solicited, none were offered. Irene Haines motioned to close nominations, Kevin Staehly 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. Mrs. Haines motioned to accept the call as read, Theresa Govert provided the second. The motion accepting the call as presented carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #1 Mrs. Haines motioned, Mr. Staehly seconded that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to approve the written agreement with Clark Gates LLC for abatement of property taxes under the Town of East Haddam ordinance entitled "Tax and Business Incentive Program" adopted June 30, 2010 and amended June 30, 2015 and that Robert R. Smith is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the Town, to execute and deliver the Agreement for the purposes provided therein, together with such other documents as he may determine to be necessary and appropriate to evidence, secure and otherwise complete the Agreement Regarding Real Property Tax Assessment.

Mrs. Haines advised that the application has moved through the system, and this action is the final step. Mr. Smith noted that the financial impact to the average taxpayer is between $1.00 and $2.00 annually.

There being no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote to approve the written agreement with Clark Gates LLC for abatement of property taxes under the Town of East Haddam ordinance entitled "Tax and Business Incentive Program" adopted June 30, 2010 and amended June 30, 2015 and that Robert R. Smith is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the Town, to execute and deliver the Agreement for the purposes provided therein, together with such other documents as he may determine to be necessary and appropriate to evidence, secure and otherwise complete the Agreement Regarding Real Property Tax Assessment. The motion carried unanimously.

Item #2. Mr. Casner motioned, Mrs. Haines seconded that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to approve the written agreement with Staehly Tree Farm and Staehly Farm Winery for abatement of property taxes under the Town of East Haddam ordinance entitled "Tax and Business Incentive Program" adopted June 30, 2010 and amended June 30, 2015 and that Robert R> Smith is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the Town, to execute and deliver the Agreement for the purposes provided therein, together with such other documents as he may determine to be necessary and appropriate to evidence, secure and otherwise complete the Agreement Regarding Tax Assessment.

Mr. Smith echoed previous comments. Carleen Quinn thanked the businesses for investing in East Haddam and making the Commitment to remain in and improve the Town. Mr. Kevin Staehly added that there really is not a cost to the Town, as the property being abated did not generate the tax revenue prior to the improvement, making it a wash. There being no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote to approve written agreement with Staehly Tree Farm and Staehly Farm Winery for abatement of property taxes under the Town of East Haddam ordinance entitled "Tax and Business Incentive Program" adopted June 30, 2010 and amended June 30, 2015 and that Robert R. Smith is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the Town, to execute and deliver the Agreement for the purposes provided therein, together with such other documents as he may determine to be necessary and appropriate to evidence, secure and otherwise complete the Agreement Regarding Tax Assessment. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no other business to discuss, the Moderator entertained a motion to adjourn. Said motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Casner at 8:06 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra H. Denette, East Haddam Town Clerk