

**Special Town Meeting**  
**June 27, 2023**

Town Clerk, Debra H. Denette called the Special Town Meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. at the Nathan Hale Ray High School Auditorium, School Drive, Moodus. Approximately Thirty five (35) people were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Bradley Parker motioned to nominate Deb Denette Moderator, Patricia Stricker seconded the motion. Other nominations were solicited, none were offered. Mr. Parker motioned to close nominations, Mrs. Stricker seconded the motion. The motion closing nomination carried unanimously via voice vote. The Moderator called for a vote on the nomination of Deb Denette to serve as Moderator, the motion carried unanimously via voice vote.**

**The Moderator reviewed the protocols for the meeting and called for a motion that the legislative body herein assembled accept the call of the meeting as presented, Mrs. Stricker motioned to accept the call as presented. Todd Gelston provided the second. There being no discussion, the motion accepting the call as presented carried unanimously via voice vote.**

Item #1 Mrs. Stricker motioned, Amalia Shaltiel provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to accept a gift of a used storage shed for the Senior Center valued at approximately \$1,200 from the Liberty Bank.

Mr. Parker encouraged support for the item and stated that as the Senior Center does not have a basement the additional storage will be very welcome.

There being no other discussion the Moderator called for a vote on the motion to accept a gift of a used storage shed for the Senior Center valued at approximately \$1,200 from the Liberty Bank. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #2 Laurel White motioned, Mr. Parker provided the seconded that the legislative body herein assembled 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 Consumer Reports for the purchase of a LUCAS Chest Compression System (Revenue account 33050-43000-G2301 and expense account 33055011-58820-G2301).

Opportunity for discussion was offered, no comments or questions were raised. Accordingly, the Moderator called for a vote on the motion to accept with gratitude a gift in the amount of \$25,000 from Consumer Reports for the purchase of a LUCAS Chest Compression System (Revenue account 33050-43000-G2301 and expense account 33055011-58820-G2301). The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #3 Mrs. Stricker motioned, First Selectman Irene Haines provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a transfer from Snow Removal in the following budgeted amounts: \$88,000 from Salt/Sand (10543070-56600), \$5,000 from Other Supplies (10543070-56900), and \$7,000 from Snow Plowing/Sanding (10543070-54103) for a total of \$100,000 to Transfer to Capital Projects (10549010-59700) for the purpose of increasing the funding for project C0230 Road Reclamation.

Opportunity for discussion was offered, no comments or questions were raised. Accordingly, the Moderator called for a vote on the motion to authorize a transfer Snow Removal in the following budgeted amounts: \$88,000 from Salt/Sand (10543070-56600), \$5,000 from Other Supplies (10543070-56900), and \$7,000 from Snow Plowing/Sanding (10543070-54103) for a total of \$100,000 to Transfer to Capital Projects (10549010-59700) for the purpose of increasing the funding for project C0230 Road Reclamation. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item 4: Mrs. Haines motioned, Mr. Parker provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a transfer from Snow Removal in the following budgeted amounts: \$35,000 from Regular Employees (10543070-51510), and \$40,000 from Snow Plowing/Sanding (10543070-54103) for a total of \$75,000 to Tree Care and Removal-Grounds Maintenance (10543550-54303) for the purpose of increasing the funding for tree removal.

Opportunity for discussion was offered, no comments or questions were raised. Accordingly, the Moderator called for a vote on the motion to authorize a transfer from Snow Removal in the following budgeted amounts: \$35,000 from Regular Employees (10543070-51510), and \$40,000 from Snow Plowing/Sanding (10543070-54103) for a total of \$75,000 to Tree Care and Removal-Grounds Maintenance (10543550-54303) for the purpose of increasing the funding for tree removal. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item 5: To consider and discuss (but not to vote on) the Town Budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$38,411,165 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 voting machine on the following question:

Shall the Town of East Haddam budget of \$38,411,165, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2023-2024 be approved?

The vote by voting machine ballot labels will be conducted at the Municipal Office Complex, Moodus, 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 11, 2023.

Mrs. Denette solicited comments.

Mr. Harvey Thomas encouraged support of the budget and noted the difficult challenge to balance the wants and needs of the community all while being as fiscally conservative as possible.

Mr. Paul Stuhlman stated that he was disappointed that the Board of Finance brought back a larger budget than that which was originally defeated.

Amalia Shaltiel raised concerns regarding low voter turnout and low public participation at the Assessor's informative meeting. She further wanted the town to take a more active role in working with the State to eliminate problems that arise due to mandates, particularly surrounding revaluation. As she had no specific budget questions, the Moderator moved on.

Chairman of the Board of Finance, Tracy Gionta addressed how, in a revaluation year, it is impossible to maintain a flat tax base as some properties were valued higher and some were valued lower.

Mrs. Denette reiterated that the outcome of the \$38,411,165 budget, for fiscal year 2023-2024 will be determined at referendum on July 11, 2023.

Item #6 Mrs. Haines motioned, Mrs. Stricker provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled act 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 11, 2023.

No discussion was offered. The Moderator called for a vote to open the polls at 6:00 a.m. as recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Parker, Seconded by Mr. Stuhlman the legislative body adjourned at 8:27 pm. until 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 to conduct the budget referendum. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra H. Denette  
East Haddam Town Clerk