Special Town Meeting
August 29, 2023

Town Clerk, Debra H. Denette called the Special Town Meeting to order at 8:00 pm at the Nathan Hale-Ray High School Auditorium 15 School Drive, Moodus. Approximately twenty five (25) people were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First Selectman Irene Haines motioned to nominate Deb Denette Moderator, Patricia Stricker seconded the motion. Other nominations were solicited, none were offered. Robert Casner motioned to close nominations, James Francesi provided the second. 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. William Barney provided the second. There being no discussion, the motion accepting the call as presented carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #1 Mr. Barney motioned, Mr. Casner provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled accept the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to accept a grant in the amount of $5,000 from the Edmund T. and Barbara S. Delaney Fund and Whelen Family Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County for the purpose of supporting summer 2023 camp programs. (revenue account 28045-44709-R1099 and expense account 28045033-56900-R1099)

Opportunity for discussion was offered, no comments or questions were raised. Accordingly the Moderator called for a vote on the motion to accept a $5,000 grant from the Edmund T. and Barbara S. Delaney Fund and Whelen Family Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County for the purpose of supporting summer 2023 camp programs. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item 2 Mr. Casner motioned, Mrs. Haines 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 grant in the amount of $1,000 from the M. Jones Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County for the purpose of supporting summer 2023 camp programs. (revenue account 28045-44709-R1099 and expense account 28045033-56900-R1099)

Opportunity for discussion was offered, no comments or questions were raised. Accordingly the Moderator called for a vote on the motion to accept a $1,000 grant from the M. Jones Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County for the purpose of supporting summer 2023 camp programs. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #3 Mr. Casner motioned, Laurel White provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled approve the following resolution:

> RESOLVED, that a grant in the amount of $6,000 is hereby accepted from the State of Connecticut, State Library, for the purpose of historic document preservation and appropriated to the Historic Document Preservation Fund (account 26041-43000); and that Irene M. Haines, First Selectman, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality, a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Document Preservation Grant.

Mrs. Denette stated that if approved, the grant will be utilized to continue electronic indexing of older records. Responsive to inquiry from Mr. Casner, Mrs. Denette noted that electronic land records are available from today back into the late 1940's, and that images are available from today's recordings back to 1975. Responsive to inquiry from Mr. Francesi regarding making the land records available to the historical society, Mrs. Denette responded that the electronic recordings are available to all at www.uslandrecords.com.

There being no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. the legislative body authorized the resolution accepting a $6,000 grant from the Connecticut State Library for the purpose of historic document preservation via unanimous vote.

Item #4 Mr. Casner motioned, Mrs. Stricker provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled accept a grant in the amount of $19,128.57 for the FY2022 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, for the purpose of acquisition and implementation of 3 radio base stations, (revenue account 33250-43000-C0226 and expense account 33250013-58926-C0226).

Mr. Casner questioned why this was a FY2022 grant. Finance Director Robert Funk responded that it is a federal grant, the Federal fiscal year is October to September. He stated that once awarded there is a 24 month window to accept. Responsive to inquiry from the Moderator, Mr. Funk responded that the 3 radio base stations have not yet been acquired.

Hearing no other comment or question, the Moderator called for a vote accepting a grant in the amount of $19,128.57 for the FY2022 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, for the purpose of acquisition and implementation of 3 radio base stations, (revenue account 33250-43000-C0226 and expense account 33250013-58926-C0226). The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #5 Mr. Francesi motioned, Mrs. White provided a second that the legislative body herein assembled adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED: Pursuant to Chapter 130, of the Connecticut General Statutes, and the "Town of East Haddam Ordinance to Create the East Haddam Redevelopment Agency for the Development of the Former Town Office and Garage Property and Certain Surrounding Properties" the Board of Selectmen hereby reappoints Jacqueline Nowell and Gary Laskowski, electors of the Town of East Haddam, to the Town of East Haddam Redevelopment Agency, to serve for 5 year terms expiring August 31, 2028, and subject to approval of a Town Meeting.

After opportunity for discussion , the legislative body affirmed the appointment of Jacqueline Nowell and Gary Laskowski to the Town of East Haddam Redevelopment Agency via unanimous vote.

Item 6 Mr. Casner motioned, Mr. Barney provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the Solid Waste Ordinance Article II, Section 296-6, Licensing of Commercial Collectors; Fees, Item B. adopted July 24, 1990 and amended at Town Meeting on March 28, 2018, is hereby amended as follows:

B. All licenses shall be for a period of one year from date of issuance. The license fee shall be paid in advance of granting said license. The fee for a license shall be [DELETE: "$250 per year] ADD: set by the Board of Selectmen.

Copies of said ordinance are on file in the Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours.

Selectman Haines has requested that the ordinance be voted down so that it can be amended with additional language that was determined after the call had been published.

Opportunity for discussion was held. Mr. Francesi inquired what the additional change would be. Mrs. Haines advised that it has been suggested that there be a cap of 25% annually from an initial increase to $500.00. The Board of Selectmen will put the item on the call for their next meeting, and further discussion will occur at that time.

Mr. Casner also encouraged defeat of this item. He stated that the Economic Development Commission and the haulers, along with the first selectmen recognized the concern with the lack of parameters being established.

Jaimie Jansky, thanked the Selectman for her willingness to work with them and stated that they are believe that the amendment being discussed is fair for the town and the haulers.

Hearing no other comments the Moderator called for a vote of the legislative body to amend the Solid Waste Ordinance Article II, Section 296-6 Licensing of Commercial Collectors. The motion carried failed via a unanimous voice vote.

Item #7 Mrs. Stricker motioned, Mrs. Haines provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled approve a transfer in the amount of $360,713.00 from the General Fund (10549010-58928) to the Board of Education capital Reserve Fund (3320-10506-25790).

The Moderator emphasized that this transfer was from the 2021-2022 budget year, although the motion does not reflect that.

Mr. Casner questioned why, if there was a surplus, that it was not used to offset the reductions required by the Board of Finance for the 2023-2024 budget.

Finance Director Rob Funk stated that capital expenditures are not counted for educational requirements under state formulas. He further noted that the 2021-2022 audit was only recently completed, which resulted in the delay of this action.

Harvey Thomas stated that this procedure of transferring unexpended funds from the board of education to their capital is not new. He stated that it eliminated the "use it or lose it" spending concept and has enabled funding of numerous capital projects over the years. Hearing no other comments the Moderator called for a vote of the legislative body herein assembled approve a transfer in the amount of $360,713.00 from the General Fund (10549010-58928) to the Board of Education capital Reserve Fund (3320-10506-25790). The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #8 is To consider and discuss (but not to vote on) the Town Budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of $37,911,165 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 $37,911,165, 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 this Town Meeting (next agenda item) on September 12, 2023.

Laurie D'Aquila questioned several line items related to the ambulance association. One related to budgeted income, the other related to the $100,000 expenditure. Mr. Funk advised that the budgeted income is a projection. The $100,000 Mrs. D'Aquila could not find in the budget was under the Board of Finance Contingency fund.

Rose-Marie Evans raised concern with East Haddam's budget being a hot mess and the impact it has on the district's ability to recruit quality staff and a new superintendent. She also noted the disservice it does to the children who deserve a quality education. She encouraged this budget to pass.

The Moderator emphasized that the pass or fail of this $37,911,165 budget will be determined at referendum on September 12, 2023.

Item 9: Mr. Casner motioned, Mrs. Stricker provided the second to direct that the polls shall be open at six o'clock a.m. to conduct the referendum on September 12, 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 Mrs. Haines seconded by Mr. Barney the legislative body adjourned at 8:35 p.m. to conduct a referendum on Tuesday, September 12:00 at 6:00 a.m. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.