Special Town Meeting
May 14, 2024

Town Clerk, Kathleen Klinck 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.

Patty Stricker motioned to nominate Kathleen Klinck Moderator, Terri Garrity seconded the motion. Other nominations were solicited, none were offered. Bob Casner motioned to close nominations, Terri Garrity provided the second. The motion closing nominations carried unanimously via voice vote. The Moderator called for a vote on the nomination of Kathleen Klinck 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, Patty Stricker motioned to accept the call as presented. Bob Casner provided the second. There being no discussion, the motion accepting the call as presented carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item 1: Harvey Thomas motioned, Jim Francese provided the second to consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen:

RESOLVED, that Chapter 195 Driveways and Excavations Ordinance, Section 195-4 Construction specifications; bond, Attachment 1 – Specifications and Guidelines adopted by Town Meeting, December 13, 1990 be amended to update the following bond amounts, change Board of Selectmen's designated agent from Road Supervisor to Director of Public Works or Road Foreman throughout the document, change notification to the dispatch center from KX to Valley Shore Emergency Communications and provide an updated permit application.

General Excavation	~~$500~~ **$1,200**
Utility Cut	~~$500~~ **$1,200**
Driveway without culvert	~~$500~~ **$1,200**
Driveway with culvert	~~$500~~ **$1,750**
Driveway with Stone without culvert	~~$**500**~~ **$1,200**
Driveway with Stone with culvert	~~$500~~ **$1,750**

***Checks are cashed upon receipt and funds returned upon completion of satisfactory inspection by the Department of Public Works**

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

Opportunity for discussion was offered. There was no discussion. Accordingly, the Moderator called for a vote on the motion to amend Chapter 195 Driveways and Excavations Ordinance, Section 195-4 Construction specifications; bond, Attachment 1- Specifications and Guidelines adopted by Town Meeting, December 13, 1990. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item 2: MaryJane Malavasi motioned, Terri Garrity provided the second to consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a transfer from Snow Removal in the following budgeted amounts: $45,533.70 from 10543070-51510 Regular Employees, $962.31 from 10543070-52975 Food Allowance, $46,453.98 from 10543070-56600 Sand/Salt**,** and $7,050.01 from 10543070-56900 other supplies for a total of $100,000 to 10549010-59700 Transfer to Capital Projects. This budgeted transfer will increase account number 33250013-58926 project number C0230 by $100,000 for the purpose of increasing the funding for Road Reclamation project.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. There was no discussion. Accordingly, the Moderator called for a vote on the motion that the Board of Finance may transfer the amounts from the Snow Removal as stated above for the purpose of increasing the funding for Road Reclamation project. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item 3: Laurel White motioned, Irene Haines provided the second to consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a transfer from Snow Removal in the following budgeted amounts**:** $19,000 from 10543070-54103 Snow Plowing/Sanding to 10543550-54303 Tree Care and Removal-Grounds Maintenance for the purpose of increasing the funding for tree removal.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. There was no discussion. Accordingly, the Moderator called for a vote on the motion that the Board of Finance approve a transfer of $19,00 from Snow Removal/Sanding to Tree Care and Removal-Grounds Maintenance for the purpose of increasing the funding for tree removal. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item 4: Irene Haines motioned, Bob Casner provided the second to consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a transfer of $5,000 from Board of Finance Contingency 10541020-58339 to Capital Project account number 33250013-58926 Project number C0249 Broadband Feasibility Study.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. There was no discussion. Accordingly, the Moderator called for a vote on the recommendation of the Board of Finance to transfer $5,000 from the Board of Finance Contingency to Capital Projects for Broadband Feasibility Study. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item 5: Patty Stricker motioned, Terri Garrity provided the second to consider and discuss (but not to vote on) the Town Budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in the amount of $40,672,915 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 $40,672,915, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2024–2025 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 May 14, 2024.

Opportunity for discussion was offered.

Kevin Ivans asked why spending could not be controlled. Why is Special Ed up? What will happen with the 2026 budget? What steps are you taking for next budget?

Board of Finance Chairman, Joe Corbett responded. We are having the same issues as other communities. We have to maintain a fund balance between 8-15%.

First Selectman, Irene Haines responded. The town is in the process of getting funds together to apply for grant money. We are shovel ready for projects.

Board of Education Chairman, Patty Stricker responded. Special Ed costs are on the rise everywhere and the town is mandated to supply special education and transportation. The Board of Education is proud of their budget and did make some difficult concessions.

Kim Dodge stated that this budget is unsustainable. People are struggling right now. She wanted a flat line budget.

Board of Finance member, Harvey Thomas stated that the tax overage of $545,000 from last year was used in this year's budget.

Karianne Kendall-Rand stated that she is a volunteer in the school system and there is no other place to cut this budget.

There was no vote.

Item 6: Bob Casner motion, Jim Francese provided the second to consider and vote 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 May 14, 2024.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. There was no discussion. Accordingly, the Moderator called for a vote on the recommendation that the polls be open at six o'clock a.m. to conduct the referendum on May 14, 2024. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

There being no further business to discuss, the Moderator called for a motion to adjourn. Patty Stricker provided the motion, Terry Garrity provided the second. The meeting adjourned at 8:45. With a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Klinck
Town Clerk