Special Town Meeting
June 4, 2025

Town Clerk, Kathleen Klinck called the Special Town Meeting to order at 8:01 pm in the Municipal Office Complex, 1 Plains Road, Moodus, Ct. Approximately nine (9) people were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Tanya Bourgoin motioned to nominate Kathleen Klinck Moderator, Robert Smith seconded the motion. Other nominations were solicited, none were offered. Robert Smith motioned to close nominations, Crary Brownell 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, Irene Haines provided the second. There being no discussion, the motion accepting the call as presented carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #1. Laurel White motioned, Robert Smith provided the second 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 Repair of Hall Kilbourne Road (revenue account 33050-43000-G3401 and expense account 33055011-58820-G3401).

Opportunity for discussion was offered. Robert Smith asked, Is there anybody here that can discuss and answer any questions? The Moderator stated yes. Robert Smith stated that Consumers in the past donated labor to the town if the town purchased materials. Is this what we are doing? Linda Zemienieski stated the whole road will be done with the road program/LOCIP funds along with Consumers money. Tanya Bourgoin asked if the are hiring an outside contractor. Linda Zemienieski said she wasn't sure if the town is doing it or not. Robert Smith asked if the work being done will be ripped up when road is being done. Linda Zemienieski said no. She added Consumer's spoke directly with Public Works regarding the best way to handle the project. Robert Smith asked if it would be chip sealed. Linda Zemienieski said she didn't know the method of repair. Robert Smith said there are too many questions on how it is going to done. There is significant road work to be done and maybe it's better to piggyback it with the road project. Linda Zemienieski said Public Works may be doing that. We still have Local Capital Improvement(LOCIP) money to spend this year. Laurel White asked is this the road where consumer reports is? The

moderator said yes. Laurel White stated as a private person, can we purchase a section of road to repair? The moderator stated that Consumer's can say where their donation can go. Linda Zemienieski said some years it went to town playgrounds, fire department needs, senior meals, etc. This is a gift from Consumer's that is similar to a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) program but not court ordered. There being no further discussion the moderator asked for a vote. The motion passed via voice vote with 1 no vote.

Item #2. Robert Smith motioned, Laurel White provided the second 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 grant in the amount of $5,000.00 from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) in conjunction with the Council of Government (RiverCOG) for an Active Transportation Microgrant to purchase bike helmets (revenue account 33050-43000-G3501 and expense account 33055011-58820-G3501).

Opportunity for discussion was offered. Amalia Shaltiel asked what this is for? The Moderator stated these are helmets to use in conjunction with a grant the Middle School received for bikes. Don Angersola stated this is a grant to team up with the Middle School grant for a bike rodeo. Any leftover money will go towards a bike trail but nothing specific. Laurel White stated they are putting a bike club together in the bikey area at the Middle School. Tanya Bourgoin said Irene Haines explained it as a bike safety rodeo. Laurel White said the public can use the trails when school is not open. Robert Smith believes they are expanding the trails onto the Kronberg open space property. Laurel White stated that you can get more information on the whole bike adventure at the last Board of Education regular meeting. There being no further discussion the Moderator asked for a vote. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #3. Crary Brownell motioned, Robert Smith provided the second that the legislative body herein consider and act upon the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Selectmen to accept the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Meeting authorizes the acceptance by Quitclaim deed from Richard Wayne and Julie Ann Neely a certain parcel of land known as Three Bridges Cemetery containing approximately .27 acres as shown on the Town of East Haddam Assessor's Map 24 Lot 14 and more particularly described as a certain piece or parcel of land, together with the buildings and improvements thereon, situated in the Town of East Haddam County of Middlesex and State of Connecticut as shown as THREE BRIDGES CEM. on the map entitled: "LAND OF THREE BRIDGES NOMINEE TRUST HOPYARD

ROAD AND THREE BRIDGES ROAD, EAST HADDAM, Connecticut," said map having a scale of 1"–6", Date 6/25/82, prepared by Richard W. Gates Land Surveyor Main Street Centerbrook, Connecticut said map on file in the East Haddam land records. The proposed deed for this conveyance is available at the Office of the Town Clerk of the Town of East Haddam for public inspection.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. Robert Smith asked if 1" equals 6" was correct? Linda Zemienieski said that is what the deed says. Laurel White asked what are they building there? Linda Zemienieski stated they are not building anything. They are giving us .27 acres with a cemetery. Amalia Shaltiel asked what the story was behind this? Crary Brownell who is a member of the Cemetery Committee said this cemetery has been in disrepair and the town has been paying to maintain it. Amalia Shaltiel asked if the cemetery troopers have been there? Don Angersola stated yes. Robert Smith said it's a good donation to the town. There being no further discussion the moderator asked for a vote. The motion caried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #4. Crary Brownell motioned, Tanya Bourgoin provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a transfer of $100,000 from Snow Removal in the following budgeted amounts: $83,679 from 10543070-56600 Sand/Salt and $16,321 from 10543070-51510 Regular Employees **to** 10543550-54303 Tree Care and Removal-Grounds Maintenance for the purpose of increasing the funding for tree removal.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. Robert Smith stated that between April 11,2024 thru October 24,2024 $416,474 was spent on tree removal. Because of the way it was done there were two court cases. The trees are not properly marked. The Public Works Director submitted an affidavit that had falsehoods in it to the court. Mr. Smith's assessment and that of a certified arborist is that fifty to sixty percent of the trees did not need to be removed. They were alive and there was nothing wrong with them. He asked if there was anyone here that can inform the public if they are going to be done using the same system? The Moderator said she could not comment on that. Mr. Smith noted that we have a conflict of interest with the company that is getting paid to remove the trees and is also the company marking the trees to be removed. He thinks this is unconscionable and some people might say corrupt. He gave a list of over one hundred hazardous trees to the Board of Selectmen and there is also a log at the Public Works Department. Not one of those trees has been put on that log. Now we are asking to move money to another project that potentially will bring

more lawsuits and court cases because the Tree Warden seems incapable of properly marking trees or doing the job that's required. He commented this money should not be used for trees, it should be used for next year's budget. Linda Zemienieski stated that it cannot be used in that fashion. It is operating budget funds and needs to be spent by June 30, 2025 or it returns to the General Fund. Robert Smith stated that he could not support this proposal.

Amalia Shaltiel said twelve trees were taken down in front of her house but only three needed to be. There needs to be specific guidelines for this work and it needs to be voted on by the town to determine which trees to take down. There needs to be a committee to create these guidelines She does not support the money being used for tree removal. The town needs money for repair of roads not removal of trees.

Crary Brownell asked Amalia Shaltiel how this tree removal does not fit into the Plan of Conservation and Development? She said it doesn't and he said it does. In the plan of Conservation and Development health and safety come first.

There being no further discussion the Moderator asked for a vote. The motion failed by a hand count of six to 1.

There being no further business to discuss the Moderator called for a motion to adjourn. Robert Smith provided the motion, Tanya Bourgoin seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Klinck
Town Clerk