Special Town Meeting
July 8, 2025

Town Clerk, Kathleen Klinck called the Special Town Meeting to order at 8:00 pm in the Municipal Office Complex, 1 Plains Road, Moodus, Ct. Approximately fifty (50) people were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Irene Haines motioned to nominate Kathleen Klinck Moderator, Peter Govert seconded the motion. Other nominations were solicited, none were offered. Rob Smith motioned to close nominations, Irene Haines 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. Robert Smith motioned to accept the call as presented, Jim Francese provided the second. There being no discussion, the motion accepting the call as presented carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #1. Patricia Stricker motioned, Irene Haines 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 $1,000 from the Haslam Memorial Foundation for Park and Recreation Summer Camp Programs (revenue account 28045-44709-R1099).

Opportunity for discussion was offered. There was none. The Moderator called for a vote on the motion authorizing the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to accept a gift in the amount of $1,000 from the Haslam Memorial Foundation for Parks and Recreation Summer Camp Programs. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #2. Amalia Shaltiel motioned, Rob Smith provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to accept a grant in the amount of $5,260.00 from the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee for the development of educational curriculum combining field study with digital programming at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School (revenue account 33050-43000-G3701 and expense account 33055011-58820-G3701).

Opportunity for discussion was offered. There being none. The Moderator called for a vote on the motion authorizing the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to accept a grant in the amount of $5,260.00 from the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee for the development of educational curriculum combining field study with digital programming at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #3. Rob Smith motioned, Jim Francese provided the second that the legislative body herein consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve funding for the East Haddam Ambulance Association in the amount of $70,897 from the 2024-2025 BOF Contingency Account (10541020-58911).

Opportunity for discussion was offered. Melanie Kolek wanted assurance that this would not go to legal fees. Irene Haines said she could not answer that. Ken Tossi said they are not trying to hide anything and they give a detailed list of expenses to the board. There is a shortfall. Jim Francese said they are hard working volunteers and they deserve the town backing. Madeline Francese said she recently had to call the ambulance and the service was great. Fire Commissioner, Tim Reynolds said he wants to make sure the money is going to the right things like staffing, equipment and ambulance breakdown. There has never been an audit. Ruth Masci supports the ambulance. Debra Woodward wants the fire department and the ambulance to work together. The Moderator called for a vote on the motion authorizing the Board of Finance to approve funding for the East Haddam Ambulance Association in the amount of $70,897. The motion carried with eight voting no.

Item #4. Melanie Kolek motioned, Rob Smith provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled consider act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a transfer of $71,000 from the High School Renovation Study account 33250013-58926-C0283 to the Elementary School Generator account 33250013-58926-C0216.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. Rob Smith asked if the work on the high school was completed. The answer was yes. Laurel White mentioned that this did not come before the Board of Education committees. Board of Education Chairman, Patty Stricker said this is from capital and does not have to. Jim Francese said if Don Angersola authorized it is okay with him. The Moderator called for a vote on the motion authorizing the Board of Finance to approve a transfer of $71,000 from the High School Renovation Study account to the

Elementary School Generator account. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #5. Rob Smith motioned, 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 of up to $41,000 from capital account 33250013-58926-C0239 Public Works Truck #8 to capital account 33250013-58926-C0246 police cruiser.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. Rob Smith asked where the money is coming from? Mike Masci asked when the money would be finalized? Finance Director, Valerie Belles said as soon as the custom items are finished like the modem. Jim Francese asked how much money was spent on the police cruiser? Linda Zemienieski said approximately $60,000. The Moderator called for a vote on the motion authorizing the Board of Finance to transfer $41,000 from capital account Public Works Truck #8 to capital account police cruiser. The motion carried with two voting no.

Item #6. Rob Smith motioned, Irene Haines provided the second that the legislative body herein 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 Capital Account 33250013-58926-C0230 Road Reclamation for the purpose of increasing the funding for road repairs.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. Rob Smith asked which roads will be done? Public Works Director, Michele Velez said when the total plan for reclamation is approved it would include 10 roads. Amalia Shaltiel asked if it included any removal of trees. Michele Velez answered no. Laurel White asked if there is tree removal in the plan and Michele Velez answered no. There is a budget for trees. The Moderator called for a vote on the motion authorizing the Board of Finance to approve a transfer of $100,000 from Snow Removal in the following budgeted amounts: $83,679 from 10 Sand/Salt and $16,321 from Regular Employees **to** Capital Account 33250 Road Reclamation for the purpose of increasing the funding for road repairs. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #7. Irene Haines motioned, Rob Smith provided the second that the legislative body herein consider and discuss (but not to vote on) the Town Budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year in the amount of $44,258,614 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 $44,258,614, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2025–2026 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 22, 2025.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. There was none. The pass or fail of the FY2025/2026 budget will be determined at referendum on July 22, 2025.

Item #8. Jim Francese motioned, Irene Haines provided the second that the legislative body herein 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 July 22, 2025.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. There was none. The Moderator called for a vote on the motion authorizing the Board of Selectmen that the polls shall be open at six o'clock a.m. to conduct the referendum on July 22, 2025.

There being no further business to discuss the Moderator called for a motion to adjourn. Rob Smith provided the motion, Irene Haines seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Klinck
Town Clerk