

Special Town Meeting
April 21, 2026

Town Clerk, Kathleen Klinck called the Special Town Meeting to order at 8:00 pm in the Nathan Hale-Ray High School Auditorium, 15 School Road, Moodus, Ct. Approximately twelve (12) people were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Debra Denette motioned to nominate Kathleen Klinck Moderator, William Barney seconded the motion. Other nominations were solicited, none were offered. Debra Denette motioned to close nominations, William Barney 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. Scott Jezek motioned to accept the call as presented, Harvey Thomas provided the second. There being no discussion, the motion accepting the call as presented carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #1. Debra Denette motioned, William Barney provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen:

RESOLVED, that the ordinance entitled Chapter 12 Boards, Commission, Committees and Agencies, Article X Cemetery Committee, Section 12-36 Membership and terms, item A adopted by Town Meeting, October 28, 2021, be amended to add section A (1) Alternate Members as follows:

- (1) **Alternate Members: There shall be two alternate members who shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The initial terms of appointment for the two alternate members shall be as follows: one member shall be appointed for a term of one year and one member shall be appointed for a term of two years. An alternate member in attendance at a meeting shall be counted in the determination of a quorum. Whenever a member is absent or recuses himself/herself from participation or voting on a matter before the Committee, the Chairman or the person serving as Acting Chairman of the meeting shall appoint an alternate member to take the place of the absent or recused member, which alternate member shall be invested with all powers and attributes of full membership on the Commission for the duration of the**

meeting or on the matter from which the regular member has recused himself/herself, including the right to participate in any discussion and the right to vote.

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

Opportunity for discussion was offered. There being none. The Moderator asked for a vote. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #2. Scott Jezek motioned, Debra Denette 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 adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that a grant in the amount of \$5,000 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 Todd H. Gelston, 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.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. Debra Denette asked what the grant is being used for. The Moderator stated that it is being used to purchase recording books, map books and vital record books. There being no further discussion the Moderator asked for a vote. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #3. Scott Jezek motioned, William Barney provided the second that the legislative body herein consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen to accept 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 appoints Scott Brown, elector of the Town of East Haddam, to the Town of East Haddam Redevelopment Agency, to serve and fill a vacant term expiring August 31, 2027 and Daniel Cobleigh, elector of the Town of East Haddam, to the Town of East Haddam Redevelopment Agency, to serve and fill a vacant term expiring August 31, 2029, and subject to approval at Town Meeting.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. There being none. The Moderator asked for a vote. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #4. William Barney motioned, Laurel White provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled consider and discuss (but not to vote on) the Town Budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year in the amount of \$43,841,297 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 \$43,841,297, as recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2026-2027 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 5, 2026.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. Laurel White stated her displeasure with the cut of \$930,000 to the Board of Education budget. She feels the Board of Finance does not support education. Denise DiStefano feels the Board of Education should not be cut. Debra Denette stated that this is not a cut. This is something they didn't have. All departments were asked for a no increase budget. Maureen Pierson asked why the referendum was starting at noon. The Moderator told her that was the next item on the call.

Item 5: Scott Jezek motioned, William Barney provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled 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 5, 2026.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. There being none. The Moderator asked for a vote. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

There being no further business to discuss the Moderator called for a motion to adjourn. Debra Denette provided the motion, Scott Jezek seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Klinck
Town Clerk