Special Town Meeting
June 30, 2026

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.

Debra Denette motioned to nominate Kathleen Klinck Moderator, Rob Smith seconded the motion. Other nominations were solicited, none were offered. Rob Smith motioned to close nominations, Pete Govert 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. Bob Casner motioned to accept the call as presented, Rob Smith provided the second. There being no discussion, the motion accepting the call as presented carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #1. Rob Smith motioned, Laurel White provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the recommended by the Board of Selectmen be authorized to enter into all necessary agreements with the Transportation Commissioner of the State of Connecticut for the receipt of State Aid for town highways in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. First Selectman Todd Gelston explained the motion. There being no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a vote. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #2. Rob Smith motioned, Kathleen Boulware provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve funding for the East Haddam Ambulance Association in the amount of $55,100 from the FY2025-2026 Board of Finance Contingency Account (10541020-58911).

Opportunity for discussion was offered. First Selectman Todd Gelston explained the motion. Karen Blaschik asked if it was for last year. First Selectman Todd Gelston stated that they had already received $19,900 and this was the balance. He also stated that the shortage will continue. Ken Tosi stated that they are having workshops which the

First Selectman is attending to talk about how to reduce costs. There being no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a vote. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #3. Rob Smith motioned, Laurel White provided the second that the legislative body herein consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to accept a bequest in the amount of $10,000 from the Estate of Ruth M. Gruenberg to be used exclusively for the Rathbun Free Memorial Library (revenue account 33050-43000-G3901 and expense account 33055011-58820-G3901).

Opportunity for discussion was offered. First Selectman Todd Gelston explained the motion. Bob Casner asked who decides what the money is used for. Todd Gelston stated that the money goes to the town and is given to the library and the library director and trustees decide what to use the money for. Bob stated they were trying to set up a trust for the libraries so it would go directly to them and not pass through the town. There being no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a vote. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item #4. Rob Smith motioned, Will Brady 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 from Consumer Reports in the amount of $15,000 for the Town's USA 250 Celebrations in East Haddam/Moodus (revenue account 33050-43000-G3902 and expense account 33055011-58820-G3902) and $10,000 towards LED sign in front of the Municipal Office Complex (revenue account 33050-43000-G3903 and expense account 33055011-58820-G3903).

Opportunity for discussion was offered. First Selectman Todd Gelston explained the motion. Kathleen Boulware asked the cost of the sign. First Selectman Todd Gelston stated that the cost is $54,000 and this money is the balance to finish the sign. Rob Smith asked what happens if Planning and Zoning Commission rejects the sign. First Selectman Todd Gelston stated they would have to ask Consumer Reports. Laurel White asked when the next Planning and Zoning Commission will be. Jim Ventres stated it is July 14, 2026 and it needs a regulation change. Dan Tierney asked why it cannot go to Zoning Board of Appeals. Jim Ventres stated that the Zoning Board of Appeals does not handle zone changes. There being no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a vote. The motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Item 5: Rob Smith motioned, Kathleen Boulware provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the

recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a transfer in the amount of $51,164.00 from the General Fund (10549010-58928) to the Board of Education Capital Reserve Fund (33299-49101-25790) to appropriate the surplus from FY 2023.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. First Selectman Todd Gelston explained the motion. There being no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a vote. The motion caried unanimously via voice vote.

Item 6: Rob Smith motioned, Laurel White provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a transfer in the amount of $163,045.00 from the General Fund (10549010-58928) to the Board of Education Capital Reserve Fund (33299-49101-25790) to appropriate the surplus from FY 2024.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. First Selectman Todd Gelston explained the motion. There being no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a vote. The motion caried unanimously via voice vote.

Item 7: Rob Smith motioned, Scott Jezek 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 Town of East Haddam hereby agrees to exchange of (i) a 5.614 acre parcel in the southwest portion of the former Harris real property owned by the Town of East Haddam, as more particularly shown on a map or plan entitled "Perimeter Survey Land N/F Daniel & Roberta Harris by Robert Weaver L.S., last revised 11-1-2013" and recorded as Map #4523 in the East Haddam Land Records, for (ii) a 2.088 acre parcel of land and (iii) an easement over 1.587 acres of land on the east side of the Sprecher property abutting the Dean Conservation Easement on Parker Road, all as shown on a map entitled "Perimeter Survey – Proposed Conveyance and Conservation Easement – Land of Averum J Sprecher in Favor of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut" by Swamp Yankee Survey LLC dated as of September 10, 2025, and that the First Selectman be authorized to negotiate and execute any documentation related to such exchange.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. Land Use Administrator Jim Ventres explained the motion. There being no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a vote. The motion caried unanimously via voice vote.

Item 8: Rob Smith motioned, Kathleen Boulware provided the second that the legislative body herein assembled consider and act upon the following resolutions as recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Planning and Zoning Commission:

RESOLVED, that the Town Meeting hereby appropriates the sum of $15,000.00 from the Open Space reserves expense account (10549010-58925), as recommended by the Board of Finance, for the acquisition of certain property described herein; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Meeting hereby authorizes the Board of Selectmen to acquire for open space purposes the following parcel of land from Dale H. King, Jr. and Patricia King, or current owner all that real property known generally as a 10.262 acre on the west side of South Sheepskin Hollow Road, East Haddam, Connecticut and shown as Lot # 38 on East Haddam Assessor's Map # 21, together with any improvements thereon and appurtenances thereto, (collectively known as the "premises") and that the property be named the Urban Farm Preserve.

Opportunity for discussion was offered. Land Use Administrator Jim Ventres explained the motion. There being no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a vote. The motion caried unanimously via voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Klinck
Town Clerk