

**CALL TO A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF DURHAM**

A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING of the Electors and Citizens qualified to vote at Town Meetings of the Town of Durham will be held the 3rd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall, on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. for the following purpose:

1. To pass a Resolution to approve Town Clerk's application to the State Elections Enforcement Commission's Municipal Filing Pilot Program
2. To pass a Resolution of Endorsement and Authorization for Inter-Town Capital Equipment (ICE) Purchase Incentive Program

Laura L. Francis
First Selectman

John T. Szewczyk
Selectman

Steven A. Levy
Selectman

RETURN OF THE CALL

Return is hereby made, that the Undersigned, on the 15th day of December caused to be posted on the Public Signpost in the Town of Durham, a written warning by the Selectmen, and on the 30th day of December, caused to be published in the Middletown Press, a newspaper having a circulation in the Town of Durham, a like warning of the SPECIAL TOWN MEETING to be held the 11th day of January 2016.

Laura L. Francis
First Selectman

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Date: January 11, 2016
Time: 8:00 pm
Place: Town Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room
Moderator: Norm Hicks
Clerk: Kim Garvis, Town Clerk
Call: The call to the meeting was accepted as read by the clerk.

Synopsis of Action

- Item 1: **To pass a Resolution to approve Town Clerk's application to the State Elections Enforcement Commission's Municipal Filing Pilot Program**
- Motion: Motion by Laura Francis seconded by Steve Levy
- Discussion: Kim explained the governor signed Special Act 15-14 on June 30, 2015 allowing the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) to establish a Municipal Filing Pilot Program. Up to 20 municipalities may participate by transferring some or all of their campaign finance filing repository duties to the Commission for the 2017 election cycle. The commission is looking for an array of municipalities to participate; from large cities to small towns, from offices with extensive hours and advanced technologies to offices with limited hours and technologies. Applying does not guarantee being chosen for the program, however, part of the application process does require approval from the municipality's legislative body.

Laura spoke in support of Durham's participation. Concern expressed:

- Would these be filed electronically
- Could the town opt out of the Pilot Program
- Would parallel systems run at the same time

Kim responded that Durham's Town Clerk and Registrars of Voters were one of the few towns handpicked to attend a roll out of the new Election Management System on December 2, 2015. Many of the tasks and corresponding paperwork performed manually by the registrars and town clerk throughout the year-long election cycle will now be handled electronically. This was a well thought out and comprehensive update to the system. Most people are unaware of the complexities of elections and that it is a year long process. Much forethought was given to the Election Management System update and the Pilot Program for Municipal Campaign Finance is probably electronic submissions as well. Kim will contact SEEC for additional information.

Kim added that the Durham Town Clerk's office has a tradition of being proactive and participating in new programs. Historically with the state, what begins as an optional program eventually becomes a mandatory one. Participation early on allows for more assistance from the state. When a program becomes mandatory and there is full participation across the state it is difficult to get the help needed when problems arise because of state staffing levels. This will be especially true now that state staffing levels have been recently reduced. Being involved in the Pilot Program gives Durham the opportunity to have our voice heard and to have input into the process.

Discussion continued.

Motion: Motion by Laura, seconded by Joe DePasquale to move the question.

Action: On a voice vote with one in opposition the moderator declared the motion to move the question passed.

Action: By a show of hands vote, with 2 in favor and 4 in opposition, the moderator declared the motion defeated.

Note: After the meeting the Town Clerk contacted SEEC

1. The Campaign Finance forms can be submitted:
 - a. Electronically by the candidate/treasurer at home via their personal computer
 - b. Electronically by the candidate/treasurer at a town hall public computer
 - c. To the Town Clerk who will then submit it electronically for the candidate to SEEC
2. Some of SEEC's reasons for the Pilot Program
 - SEEC realizes that it is difficult for Town Clerks to fine their own candidates and treasurers for late filings. They believe removing this from the local level will make it easier for all concerned.
 - Costs and space associated with storing the financial filings
 - Having to be the middle man when directing candidate's complicated questions to SEEC – now they will be contacting SEEC directly
 - Treasurers for municipal campaigns have been asking for years to be able to file campaign finance forms electronically (many already do in their capacity as town committee treasurers). The Pilot Program will give municipal candidates/campaigns the option to file

electronically as state campaigns already do via the SEEC eCRIS system at: <http://seec.ct.gov/eCris/eCrisHome.aspx?seecNav=>

Item 2: To pass a Resolution of Endorsement and Authorization for Inter-Town Capital Equipment (ICE) Purchase Incentive Program

Motion: Motion by Laura Francis seconded by John Szewczyk

Discussion: Laura explained that Valley Shore is a regional dispatcher for fire and medical calls. Durham is a member town of Valley Shore. The equipment is old and needs to be replaced. In order to apply for this grant to fund the purchase of new equipment all member towns need legislative approval. She added that when she initially became selectman she discovered that town CEO's did not have a seat on this board and there was no capital plan in place. At her urging that has now changed and there is a capital plan in place to fund replacement of equipment.

Action: By a show of hands with 7 in favor and 0 opposed, the moderator declared the motion unanimously passed.

Adjourn: Motion made, seconded and passed to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

Attest: *Kim Garvis*
Town Clerk