



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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**Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby
Board of Selectmen**

Minutes of May 13, 2013

The meeting was opened at 9:30a.m.

Board Members Present: Lawrence H. Davis, III Chairman
Nathaniel Yohalem
Tara B. White

Others Present: Nicole Reid, Administrative Secretary

Review, discuss, and sign warrants, correspondence and minutes.

The minutes of May 6, 2013 were approved as amended.

The meeting started with a brief update of recent bridge inspections. A bridge engineer from MassDOT performed inspections on the Campell Falls Bridge and a courtesy inspection on the Clayton Mill River culvert. An official report is expected early next week.

Correspondence included a letter from Michael Skorput requesting an additional vacation day on July 5, 2013. Additional correspondence included a vacation request from Tax Collector, Caren Adams from June 24, 2013 to June 28, 2013. The Tax Collector would also like to change her hours effective July 1, 2013 through August 24, 2013. The new hours will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30am – 2:30pm or by appointment.

Agenda items included a sign permit request from David Herrick in regard to a new post office sign.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the request for the new sign at the post office.

Selectmen Yohalem inquired about open items including a new contract from Town Counsel for appointed officers of the Town. He questioned whether or not acting Fire Chief, Charles Loring will be doing the inspections during May and June of this year. Administrative Secretary, Nicole Reid will follow up on the above items and report back to the Board.

There is a request from Police Chief, Scott Farrell for an executive session meeting. An executive session will be tentatively scheduled for Thursday May 16, 2013 at 5:30 pm. This meeting will be confirmed when we verify it with the Police Chief. Additional executive sessions are being considered for the same day. All sessions will be posted on Tuesday, May 14, 2013.

Selectmen Yohalem inquired about Kerry Sullivan's visit to New Marlborough last week. Specifically, if there was record of a letter from Smitty in regard to the Town spending money on bridges. She does not recall a letter that was sent to New Marlborough. It was suggested by Selectmen Yohalem to inform Peter Scala, who originally inquired about the letter, that there is no such letter. The Town does have a letter from the State dated October 24, 2012 which explains, in detail what bridges may or may not qualify for Federal Aid. Selectmen Yohalem stated that he did speak with the State and Smitty Pignatelli, in person and "they confirmed that if we spend money on bridges that qualify for State Aid, we will not be reimbursed. But if we spend money on bridges that don't qualify, such as Clayton Mill River, that is our own money and it will only have a positive effect on the way the State looks at us because it shows that we have skin in the game." Meaning that the Town is willing to spend on projects for bridges and not just looking for handouts.

We have a letter from the former Fire Chief stating that Todd Riska has resigned from the Fire Company and the Fire Department. The Board had asked Todd to confirm this in writing because we have received a letter from Acting Fire Chief, Charles Loring saying that Todd had not resigned and was going to act as clerk. Todd came in Town Hall and stated to Selectmen Yohalem he "only resigned as Assistant Fire Chief." He is still a member of the Fire Department and the Fire Company and will continue to perform clerical duties until someone was trained to take his place. Mike and Nicole were both there and witnessed the conversation. Todd does not want to be involved with controversy and does not feel it is necessary to write a letter. The Board then voted to rescind its acceptance of Todd's resignation and limiting it to his position of assistant Chief.

Additional follow up included a request to stay on top of the reports for MEMA on Storm Nemo and report back to the Board as to where we are on it at the next meeting.

Selectmen Yohalem also mentioned a computer equipment invoice [in the Selectmen's mail folder] which was just over \$2,000.00. Selectmen White confirmed that the money which will be used for this purchase is the money from the FY11 emergency management grant. It was announced by Selectmen Yohalem that the equipment will be purchased by the Town, in the name of the Town, and paid for by the Town. Selectman White confirmed by adding "it has to be paid for, then you take a copy of the check and the paperwork, and send it to MEMA and they reimburse you. It is on the warrant today, so it will be dated May 13, 2013."

Peter Schuyten, present in the audience inquired about a potential special town meeting. The Board stated that at this time we will have to wait for the report from the MassDOT on the Clayton Mill River Bridge [culvert].

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 10:10am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Reid
Administrative Secretary

