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

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting
June 10, 2014

Board Members Present: Tara B. White, Chairman
Nathaniel Yohalem
Michele Shalaby

Others Present: Michael Skorput, Administrative Assistant
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary
Scott Farrell
Doug Plachinski
Chuck Loring

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 5:05 p.m.

The Board read the minutes. **After a discussion, a motion was made and seconded and so voted by all members (Nat Yohalem abstained due to his absence at the June 2 meeting) to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2014 Selectmen's meeting, as amended.**

Police Chief Scott Farrell – The Selectmen received an email from Police Chief Scott Farrell on May 19, 2014, regarding the current status of the Police Department and his vision for the future of the Department. The Police Chief advised that Jesse Novolo has accepted a full-time position and is not available to work in New Marlborough. Although Ed Deming is still on the Police roster, because of his experience and expertise, he doesn't have the time to work very much due to other endeavors. John Mullen and Kyle Kemp are still available to work on a part-time basis. New resumes have been submitted to the Police Department: one gentleman, Dan Hamill, has a lot of experience and is a good fit for the town and recommended by Scott Farrell on a part-time basis. Another resume has been received from Matthew Wright who is untrained, but local, and working toward becoming EMT certified. He is very interested in becoming a Police Officer in the Town. A resume was also received from David Triano; however, he is untrained in Massachusetts, but has a wealth of experience in corrections and is looking for a part-time position in Massachusetts. Chairman White asked about who pays for training to which Scott replied that it is up the individual. Training takes approximately five months at the Academy. Scott Farrell expressed his desire to have these three police applicants on the roster. **After a discussion, a motion was made and seconded and so voted by all members to appoint Dan Hamill as a part-time police officer.**

Moving forward Police Chief Farrell is working toward transitioning many of his responsibilities to Graham Frank and has done so on many different levels. Scott Farrell stated he would like to assume more responsibilities in patrolling the town. Although Police Office Graham Frank oversees all the firearms and the police cruiser, Scott Farrell stated there is still further training needed, especially in budgets, personnel and State of Massachusetts issues, etc. Police Chief Scott Farrell would like this transition with Graham Frank to take place over the summer or early fall.

Selectman Nat Yohalem asked about the Police Department using Tasers and was told the cost is about $800.00, plus holster costs and training would come to about $1,000.00 each. Scott is currently investigating the cost to buy two Tasers, possibly doing a transfer from the Police Rental Account to fund the purchase of two Tasers. This must be completed prior to the end of June 2014. Tasers are in the budget for next year or shortly thereafter. Scott Farrell stated that other towns are getting Tasers which will soon be required by the State.

Police Chief Farrell indicated he was very tight on his budget this year due to gas price increases and repairs to the cruiser, which may necessitate transfers to his account. Mr. Skorput requested that he be given this information by Monday, June 16, 2014, when transfers will take place.

Norfolk Road - Chairman White indicated a resident on Norfolk Road told her that the Hunting Permission Sign was gone (a new one will have to be purchased) and the 40 MPH speed sign on the Connecticut border existed, but no sign exists when one enters Massachusetts. The Highway Department will purchase the sign and Patrolman Frank will work to speed-zone this road this year.

Meeting with Rep. Pignatelli and Senator Downing - Selectman Shalaby asked Police Chief Farrell if he might have any questions for Rep. Pignatelli or Senator Downing for the meeting on July 14, 2014. Selectman Shalaby requested that any questions be submitted to the Selectmen prior to that meeting regarding regionalization of services, or directives from the State that have no applicability to the smaller towns in Western Massachusetts. The Police Chief was also invited to participate in that meeting.

Elm Knoll Farm – Per Police Chief Farrell, he has not seen any damage to the road surface so far. However, the problem arises when the tilling digs up the earth only a foot or two off the road. This softens the soil and the road starts to collapse when heavy trucks cross that road. Police Chief Scott advised that corn is being planted a foot off the road. A letter had previously been written advising Elm Knoll Farm their limitations on planting close to the road the terms of which apparently been violated. Jeremia Pollard will be advised as to what legal action needs to be taken to reinforce the parameters of a previous letter.

Road Condition Report – Mr. Doug Plachinski from Berkshire Regional Planning presented the Board with his report on the roads in New Marlborough. Mr. Plachinski explained that the roads are rated from 1 to 10, 1 being no good and 10 indicating new construction. He evaluated all the roads in New Marlborough. He indicated in his report that water degrades roads; therefore, proper drainage is the most important issue in keeping roads in good condition. Other issues regarding the deterioration of roads is the freeze-thaw cycle the roads in New Marlborough experience. He indicated that many of the roads in New Marlborough were constructed when the standards that are applied today weren't available. Therefore, when many roads in New Marlborough need repair, it is a major project to bring them up to the Massachusetts code. He

stated that, even with the good roads, maintenance should be completed every five years to keep them in good shape. Mr. Plachinski stated that trucks do a great deal of damage to roads, and when Rt. 57 is resurfaced, the Town can expect more trucks to use that road. Mr. Plachinski indicated that, because the State does not fund enough money for adequate resurfacing, the Highway Department is critical in maintaining all the roads in New Marlborough. With the new State requirements, it is now estimated that it costs approximately $3 million per mile to completely resurface a two lane road. Chapter 90 funds provide New Marlborough with nearly $4,000.00 per mile per year. There are 84 miles of road being maintained by the Town. Mr. Plachinski indicated that most of the roads in New Marlborough are in pretty good shape, with some roads requiring more maintenance than others. The roads needing additional maintenance include improved drainage on Mill River Great Barrington Road between County Road and the Sheffield Town line, New Marlborough-Southfield Road between Rt. 57 and Mill River Southfield Road, Clayton Mill River Road between Mill River Great Barrington Road and Cross to Canaan Valley Road, Mill River Great Barrington Road from the Great Barrington Town line south to Old County Road, Canaan Southfield Road between Cross to Canaan Valley Road and the State line. In addition, maintenance equipment will need to be purchased, as well as some capital material purchases such as in-road structures and culverts.

Mr. Plachinski indicated it is important for the Town to work with the State in order to establish maintenance/improvement programs for the bridges before they deteriorate and have to be closed. Currently, there are three bridges closed; the Foley Bridge is scheduled to open in August 2014. There are two Hadsell Street bridges. Engineering work has started on one of the Hadsell Street bridges, and hopefully this 65 year old bridge will be completed next year. The other Hadsell Street Bridge was built in 1938. Other towns have conveyed maintenance of a State road to the State. Mr. Plachinski commended the Highway Superintendent, Chuck Loring, for the condition of the roads and thanked him for going with him to inspect the roads.

Road Maintenance – Highway Superintendent, Chuck Loring, stated he will use the $51,000.00 pothole money on the Mill River Great Barrington Road. There is $472,000.00 of Chapter 90 available, $335,000.00 of which will be used for County Road and $105,000.00 will be used for Sisson Hill Road. Chairman White requested the Highway Superintendent, Chuck Loring, cut back trees by the bridge on Norfolk Road from the bridge to the Southfield Store. Mr. Loring responded that he may be able to mill parts of that road to reduce the size of the bumps. The deck on the Foley Street Bridge has been poured, but will have to sit for 21 days before they are able to get into the water to do additional work

Job Descriptions for BCC Students – The Planning Board has given Mr. Skorput a position description. Mr. Skorput also has a position description for an administrative clerk.

Capital Planning Committee – will be discussed in greater depth next week, but Selecmen Shalaby stated she has two qualified candidates and one unconfirmed.

Town Hall Renovations – A meeting will be set up with Tim Eagles, EDM, to discuss the renovations to be done to Town Hall.

Meeting with Dave Smith – A meeting will be set up for either June 23 or June 30 with Dave Smith to discuss the Fire Department lease, mortgage and any planned renovations on the old Fire House.

Congratulatory Letters – Congratulatory letters are being prepared for the high school and college graduates.

Dave Hastings Letter – A letter is being prepared by Mr. Skorput.

Foley Bridge - This project is on schedule both in terms of completion and within budget A conference call is scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2014 with Erica Kreuter. Maxymillian will not be able to get into the water until July 1, 2014.

Clayton Mill River Culvert – Construction should begin on this culvert in the fall and, according to Highway Superintendent Loring, should be complete before winter.

Bid Opening – the bids for pothole repair on Mill River Great Barrington Road are scheduled to be opened on Wednesday, June 11, 2014.

Animal Control Memorandum of Understanding – Prue Spaulding presented an MOU between the Town of New Marlborough and "A Place for us Animal Rescue." This will be discussed at the June 16, 2014 meeting.

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary

6/16/14

The Finance Committee met this Date

and by unanimous Vote appointed David Herrick

To the Capital Planning Committee.

Sincerely

David Ethridge Chairman Fin Com