



**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 March 31, 2014**

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

**Others Present:** Michael Skorput, Administrative Assistant  
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary

**The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 5:06 p.m.**

The Board read the minutes. **After a discussion, a motion was made and seconded and so voted by all members to approve the minutes, as amended, of the March 24, 2014 meeting.**

**Land Auction held March 29, 2014** – The Town of New Marlborough raised \$87,000, as a result of the sale of three properties formerly held by the Richards, Hadsell, and Twing families. The \$87,000 will be added to free cash. The actual amount of unpaid taxes, costs, legal fees, etc. was approximately \$48,000. The three properties will now go on the tax roles.

Sullivan & Sullivan will prepare a press release.

**Budgets**

A 2% salary increase was originally to be based on merit, but upon further discussion, it was agreed that a 2% increase for town employees should be across the board, with certain exceptions. Surrounding towns to New Marlborough have also adopted a 2% across the board salary increase. **A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve a 2% salary increase across the board with certain exceptions.**

**FY 15 Budget Worksheet** – The following items were discussed and subject to approval:

Item 10129.00 – Administrative Assistant - \$37,547.00 and Administrative Secretary (salary amount was adjusted to \$26,520.00).

Item 10135.02 – Accounting Officer Salary - \$17,025.00. (Selectmen Tara White recused herself from that vote)

Item 10137.00 – Grant Writer Salary - \$5,000.00.

Item 10141.00 – Assessors Salary - \$6,000.00.

Item 10141.02 - Assessors Clerk - \$17,348.00.

Item 10147.01 – Treasurer’s Salary - \$17,045.00 and Assistant Treasurer’s Salary - \$5,200.00.

Item 10147.02 – Tax Collector’s Salary - \$25,686.00.

Item 10161.00 – Town Clerk Salary - \$29,892.00.

10142.00 –Assessors Revaluation - \$16,000.

20491.01 – Cemetery Salaries - \$34,689.00.

50610.02 – Library Salaries - \$52,332.00.

60210.00 – Police Department Salaries - \$87,256.00.

60220.05 – Firefighters Stipend - \$36,500.00.

60241.04 – Building Inspectors Salary - \$19,204.00.

70519.03 – Transfer Station Expenses - \$61,000.00.

70519.00 – Transfer Station Salaries - \$17,811.00.

70510.00 – Board of Health Salaries - \$1,250.00.

70510.01 – Board of Health Expenses (Consultant) - \$2,500.00.

70510.02 – Board of Health Clerical - \$5,000.00.

70519.00 – Transfer Station Salaries - \$17,811.00.

**A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the above budget items.**

**FY 15 Budget Worksheet – The following items were put on hold:**

10192.02 – Clerical - \$8,137.00

20422.03 – Roads and Bridges Salaries - \$260,547.00.

Town Hall Renovations - \$30,000.00.

Transfer Station Renovations - \$20,000.00.

### **Special Articles**

Insurance Trust Fund (new item) - \$3,500.00.\*

Wired West - \$1,000.00.

Stabilization Fund - \$50,000.00.\*

Fire Truck - \$550,000.00. (borrow)

Highway Truck - \$220,000.00, with warranty. (borrow)

Highway Truck - \$93,000.00.\*

Building Inspector's Computer Program - \$7,400.00\*

Clayton Mill River Bridge - \$180,000.00. (borrow)

\*Free cash items

**A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the above Special Article items.**

### **Police Chief Scott Farrell re Mutual Aid Agreement and Other Matters**

The Lease for Police Cruiser at the Fire Company garage was signed by Chairman Nathaniel Yohalem. A check for \$3,000.00 is to be made payable to the landlord, New Marlborough Township Volunteer Fire Department Company, and available at the April 7, 2014 Selectmen's Meeting. The \$3,000.00 will include back rent as well as the rent due for April. A new lease, basically the same as the existing lease, should be prepared effective July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, but to include Bay 1 and office space.

**Evaluation from Rob McDermott re Fire Truck** – Chairman Nathaniel Yohalem congratulated Mr. McDermott for his evaluation of the needs of the Fire Department, as well as the cooperation that was given to him by the Fire Chief Chuck Loring. Mr. McDermott specifically cited how well the equipment had been maintained over years. Mr. McDermott further stated how diligently Fire Chief Loring and his department had worked in putting together the specs for the items that would have to be costed out. Mr. Loring would like to advertise this week for a new Fire Truck and may look into the co-op for purchasing this truck. The cost of the new Fire Truck is anticipated to cost over \$500,000.00. Chairman Yohalem recommended that we publicize the necessity for a new Fire Truck so that the Town is aware of Mr. McDermott's recommendations. Copies of Mr. McDermott's recommendations will be made available at the General Stores in Mill River and Southfield, and the Library. A copy will also be sent to Maggie's list; the NM5VN has been given a copy. Press Releases will also be written. The purchase of a new Fire Truck will be on the warrant.

Robert McDermott's fee was not to exceed \$1,000. At \$50.00 per hour, he still has 1-2 hours remaining on his contract.

**Town Caucus** – There were 93 people in attendance at the Town Caucus. There was only one contested position and that is for Selectman Chairman. The write-in position was for Peter Marks. Chairman Yohalem received 61 votes and Peter Marks received 29 votes.

**David Ralph Property** – A letter was received from the Fire Chief, Charles Loring regarding the property owned by David and Heather Ralph. Copies of that report were forwarded to Mr. Ralph as well as his attorney, Mr. Lynch. The report states it would be impossible for fire vehicles to access that property in case of an emergency.

**Berkshire County Law Enforcement Council Mutual Aid Agreement** – Police Chief Scott Farrell advised the following towns have signed the Mutual Aid Agreement: Adams, Dalton, Lanesborough, Lenox, Monterey, North Adams, Pittsfield, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, Williamstown, Egremont, Lee, Williamstown, and Sheffield. The State Police, although not part of this agreement (the State Police have their own Mutual Aid Agreement), do come and assist the New Marlborough Police Department when needed. **A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement.**

Michael Skorput gave Police Chief Farrell a Touchbook to be used in the Police Cruiser. This will allow the cruiser internet access as well as access to most of the town's emergency materials.

Police Chief Farrell advised that there are people living in trailers on other people's property. An incident occurred on the morning of Sunday, March 30, 2014. Police Chief Farrell will advise the Board of Health to take action against people living illegally in trailers.

An email was received today regarding an incident over the weekend, where a resident had a Police Department badge (issued years ago), and told people he was working for the Town. Michael Skorput will prepare a letter insisting that person surrender his badge to the Town Clerk immediately and cease from representing himself as being employed by the Town or the Police. This letter will be signed by the Selectmen.

Chief Farrell also indicated that he will be losing one police officer and would like to hire a new part-time police offer. There is interest from one (perhaps two) individuals who would need to go to the Police Academy and Chief Farrell is willing to send a new hire to the Academy. Interested individuals will be interviewed by Chief Farrell and then, if recommended, will be interviewed by the Selectmen.

**Review of the Highway Superintendent** - Contractually, based on his current salary of \$58,500 and contingent upon a positive performance review, the Highway Superintendent's salary will increase to \$60,000.00 effective April 1, 2014. The performance review, as presented, justified the increase in salary to \$60,000.00.

**April 3, 2014 Selectmen's Meeting** – It was agreed upon to have a work meeting to further discuss the budget from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., immediately followed by an Executive Session to discuss clerical duties.

**A motion was made to adjourn the Selectmen's Meeting and convene the Executive Session. We will not reconvene the Selectmen's Meeting. . A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the Selectmen's Meeting and convene the Executive Session at 8:01 p.m.**

**Roll Call:** Nathaniel Yohalem    yes  
                  Tara White                yes  
                  Michele Shalaby            yes

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck  
Administrative Secretary