



**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 17, 2014

Board Members Present: Nathaniel Yohalem, Chairman
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby (present via telephone)

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

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:10 pm.

A quorum was available with Chairman Yohalem and Selectman White. **A motion was made, seconded and approved to have Selectman Shalaby participate via telephone.**

The Board read the minutes of March 10, 2014. **After a discussion a motion was made and seconded and so voted by all member of approve the minutes of the March 10, 2014 meeting as amended.**

Letter to Carl Stewart at the Southern Berkshire Regional School District

A letter was drafted by Chairman Yohalem, with copies to David Hastings and the Boards of Selectmen from Sheffield, Alford, Egremont and Monterey. The letter makes recommendations pertaining to the Monterey and Egremont school districts, offering both quality education and potential savings to the school districts. After review by the Selectmen, changes were made, approved and the letter will be sent.

Re: The frozen water pipes at the highway garage - Michael said there is really no problem with the Health Department who granted an extension to comply.

David Ralph Special Permit – The Chairman asked Michael if Chuck Loring ever met with David Ralph. Mike thought he did, but the Selectmen have not heard back from Mr. Ralph's attorney. Once the highway superintendent gets back to us regarding the road, we'll notify Mr. Ralph's attorney of his findings. The Police Department advised that as long as the highway

department doesn't have a problem with this, they see no problem in allowing this permit. A written letter will be sent from the highway department either approving/or not approving this request.

Clayton Mill River Culvert – The Chairman asked Michael if we received anything about capital needs for the Clayton Mill River culvert. Michael reported the estimates of approximately \$180,000 for the culvert. Michael must sit down with the highway department to determine the monies required for this culvert, and any monies that may have already been expended.

Fire Engine and two trucks – Fire truck is on hold and specifications are just coming in for the two trucks. There is an issue with the condition of the highway superintendent's truck and what will happen if the truck dies. The highway department will be asked to supply us with its needs going forward. The estimates are \$93,000 on one truck and \$208,000 (does that include an extended warranty?) on the other.

Campbell Falls Bridge – There is a structural problem with the bridge, and the State may want to reduce it to a one-lane bridge. The State will get back to Michael on its findings. The bridge is wide enough for about 1-1/2 cars, so part of the bridge could be restricted. Perhaps a Bailey Bridge (pre-fab) could be used to replace the Campbell Falls Bridge, if the State deems the bridge has to be replaced.

Office Hours – Michele suggested we post office hours for the town to be able to come in and ask questions on the warrant or annual report. The selectmen would rotate between them the times and places they would be available.

Fire Company Lease for Police Cruiser – David Smith reported the lease is essentially the same except it's for eight months and not a year. It provides for monthly rental of \$500 for the cruiser, commencing November 1, 2013. The Chairman submitted two minor changes to the lease. **After a discussion, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the Fire Company Lease after the changes were made, contingent upon the Fire Company signing the lease commencing November 1, 2013 ending June 30, 2014.**

Budgets – The following budgets were approved by the Selectmen:

- Berkshire Regional Planning Commission - \$1,062.
- Veterans Benefit Chapter Trust - \$8,000.
- Town Council - \$10,000.
- Insurance Expense - \$65,000.
- Transfer Station - \$62,000.
- Workman's Compensation - \$22,000.
- Berkshire Group Purchasing - \$600.

- Animal Control - \$3,411.
- Animal Control Officer - \$2,100.
- Police Department Rental at Fire Company - \$12,000 for vehicle and office space.
- Group Insurance – **on hold**.*
- Building Inspector - \$7400 – new account and procedure.
- Wired West - \$1,000.

*Group Insurance was put on hold.

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

School Budget - \$103,522 more than the 2014 budget. This will be voted on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 by the school committee. Approximately \$40,000 was the percentage increase to New Marlborough last year. This increase is dictated by the State. The budget was endorsed by the Selectmen. This year's state assessment increased from 20.49% to 20.80%.

Budgets not approved – All budgets must be approved by the end of March. Still awaiting figures for salaries for 2015.

Assessor – A copy of the letter from the State has been requested of the assessor for the \$10,000 that is needed for the cyclical evaluation of \$26,000. This amount will be for the next three years.

Complaint from Tom Eichstedt – A complaint was made at the March 10 meeting regarding the response time from a 911 call. The complaint indicated a 45 minute response time. Upon County Dispatch and Mass. State Police records, it was 21 minutes from the time the call was made until Office Graham arrived. A copy of the log from County dispatch and the State Police has been made available for Mr. Eichstedt to pick up.

Complaint from John Hotaling – John has reported a continual offender, both speeding and running a stop sign by his home. He has requested police support, and was asked to provide the police department with a description of the car, its license plate, and time of day these offenses take place.

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 7:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary