



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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Tara B. White, Chair
Richard E. Long
Mark Carson
Board of Selectmen

**VIA TELECONFERENCING
Minutes
Board of Selectmen
Monday, April 5, 2021**

Board Members Present: Tara White, Chair
Richard Long, Vice Chair
Mark Carson

Others Present: Mari Enoch, Town Administrator
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary
Joe Poindexter, NM5VN

Tara White announced that the meeting is being recorded by Sharon Fleck and Zoom .com for the purpose of transcription.

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:01 p.m.

Vote to accept donations for Right of Way easements for bridge projects

The Board voted to accept the following donations required for right of way relating to the MASS DOT replacement of three bridges: William & Claire Gillette, Canaan/Southfield Road Bridge-a temporary and two permanent easements, Richard Goewey, Lumbert Cross Road Bridge-a temporary easement, Ari Korpivara & Ellen Sweet, Norfolk Road Bridge-a temporary and two permanent easements and Jayne Kurzman, Trustee-a temporary and two permanent easements.

A motion was made by Tara White and seconded by Mark Carson to accept the above donations with thanks to those residents for the donations. A roll call vote was taken:

Tara White—Aye
Richard Long—Aye
Mark Carson—Aye

Discuss FY 22 Budget and Town Meeting Warrant

The Board discussed the budget items that had been reviewed by the Finance Committee. The overall increase, at this time, is 1.4% over FY 2021. The excess capacity is approximately \$198,000 and the drop in the school assessment is \$177,000. Richard suggested using the \$177,000 towards the capital budget. There was discussion on further reductions on the Police and Highway budgets. One-time expenses that could be taken from the \$177,000 are: \$4,115 for air conditioning at the Highway Garage, \$8,000 for the Regional School District Planning Board, \$2,700 to replace tasers for the Police Department and \$62,500 to cover the cost of the Broadband installation.

The Capital Planning Committee is working on a 5-year capital plan. Richard would like to increase the Selectman's Expense Budget to cover two annual mailings to inform the residents of the capital requests and the working plan going forward. It was suggested to add \$1,000 to the Selectman's Expense Budget.

Debt will need to be taken this year. The road projects that could be covered by Chapter 90 state funding are Hatchery Road and Knight Road. Canaan Valley Road will be deferred as well as one highway truck that was requested.

Richard and Mark also said that they would like to see a reduced number of Part-Time Police Officers, some of whom were hired when the Police Chief was out on Medical leave.

Town Administrator Updates

Mari announced that Route 57 will be closed for 6 weeks beginning April 19th for paving. Detour signs will be in place during this time.

Tara asked about the Tasco contract for the drainage done last year on Route 57, and if they had fulfilled their obligation and been fully paid. Richard said that they had not yet been paid in full and there was approximately \$45,000 in retainage on the contract still available should LB Corporation, while paving, need to adjust any of the culvert work done by Tasco.

New Marlborough has joined with about 5 other Towns to apply for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant for culvert assessment. There is a match for this grant, however the work we have already done with Trout Unlimited may be used toward the match.

Sharon reported that Jan Johnson had contacted her about the transfer of the Package Store license for the Mill River General Store as she is in the process of purchasing it.

Board of Selectmen Updates

Richard announced that an expression of interest had been filed for the new round of MassWorks funding. The amount to be requested is \$1M.

Review and approve minutes of previous meetings

The following minutes were approved as amended by roll call vote.

February 17th—motion, Tara White, seconded by Mark Carson
Tara White—Aye
Richard Long—Aye

Mark Carson—Aye

March 1st—motion, Tara White, seconded by Mark Carson
Tara White—Aye
Richard Long—Aye
Mark Carson—Aye

March 9th—motion, Richard Long, seconded by Mark Carson
Tara White—Aye
Richard Long—Aye
Mark Carson—Aye

The minutes of March 8th (5:00 pm & 6:00pm) were held to merge both meetings as one combined set of minutes.

The Board needs to sign the Right of First Refusal letter for the Burnett property.

Public Comment

None

As 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 7:47 p.m.

Tara White—Aye
Richard Long—Aye
Mark Carson--Aye

Approved by:

Board of Selectmen
Date: May 11, 2021