



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH  
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
807 Mill River Southfield Road, Mill River, MA 01244-0099  
Phone: 413-229-8116 Fax: 413-229-8253  
E-mail: nmbos@newmarlboroughma.gov**

Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair  
Tara B. White, Vice Chair  
Richard E. Long  
Board of Selectmen

**Minutes  
Board of Selectmen  
Monday, January 13, 2020  
6:00 p.m.**

**Board Members Present:** Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair  
Tara B. White  
Richard E. Long

**Others Present:** Mari Enoch, Town Administrator  
Carrieanne Petrik, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness  
(MVP) Program Regional Coordinator  
William Ruane, Highway Department  
Pete Wilson, Highway Department

**The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:02 p.m.**

Meet with Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Regional Coordinator –  
Carrieanne Petrik

Carrieanne Petrik, who works for the Executive Offices of Energy and Environmental Affairs, introduced herself as the Regional Coordinator for the Berkshires and the Hill Towns. Mari then clarified that the Town has applied for two MVP grants, one of which is a planning grant for the Town to become an MVP community and the other is a joint application with Sheffield and Sandisfield for dirt road evaluations. Carrieanne advised that the Town should hear back from the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs on those grant applications within the next two weeks. Carrieanne stated that should the Town be awarded the planning grants, the next step would be to apply for an action grant to complete those projects.

Clarify Employee Pay Rate for Holiday Pay

Bill Ruane and Pete Wilson from the Highway Department questioned the Personnel Policy's confusing policies on Page 7 and Page 9 of double time on a holiday and subsequent comp time off for a holiday.

Tara asked them if they currently were receiving a full comp day, even if they only worked part of the holiday and they replied “yes.” They currently get paid double time for the hours worked on a holiday plus a full comp day.

The Board received a memo from Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring stating that during his 1<sup>st</sup> winter, the issue was raised about holiday pay. He stated that a memo was given to him outlining the exact policy. A search of records for this memo was unsuccessful.

Currently, per the Highway Superintendent, employees are paid 12 midnight until 7 am, (the normal starting time) double their hourly rate. From 7 am until 3:30 pm, (normal work day), they receive holiday pay plus their single rate of pay. From 3:30 pm until midnight, they receive double their regular rate of pay again.

After much discussion, the Board decided to continue with the current policy as defined in the above paragraph. Two holidays remain, Martin Luther King Day and President’s Day, that could be affected by the policy. The Personnel Policy is due to be reviewed by June 30, 2020 and clarification will be made on this issue when that is done.

**A motion was made, seconded and so voted that from now until the new Personnel Policy is reviewed and adopted, that the manner of paying holidays set forth in the memo from the Highway Superintendent will continue. Richard Long abstained from the vote.**

#### Review and Approve Service Agreement for Emergency Communications Center

Mari advised the Town currently pays an assessment to the Berkshire County Sheriff’s Office for dispatch (Emergency Community Services). The Sheriff’s Office has been paid for FY20 \$10,591.93. This year the Town and all other communities are being asked to sign a formal written agreement, as dictated by the State. Neither the Police Chief nor the Fire Chief has any objection to the agreement being signed.

**A motion was made, seconded and so voted for Nat Yohalem to sign the formal written agreement with the Emergency Communications Services between the Town of New Marlborough and the Berkshire County Sheriff’s Office in the amount of \$10,591.93 for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.**

#### Review and Approve Service Agreement with BETA Engineering for Rt. 57 Engineering

Richard noted that the agreement is not ready for signature as it is still being reviewed by both New Marlborough and Sandisfield. Richard has shared his comments with the Town of Sandisfield and is awaiting its response. This agreement will be put on the next Board’s agenda for review and approval.

#### Appoint Alternate Delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Mari advised that the Planning Board met and recommended that Mark Carson be appointed as the alternate delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. The

Planning Board chooses its own delegate but the Board of Selectmen appoints the alternate.

**A motion was made, seconded and so voted to appoint Mark Carson as the alternate delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission on behalf of the Planning Board, effective immediately until June 30, 2020.**

#### Discuss Egremont's Personnel Director Search

Richard advised that Egremont has scheduled a meeting for January 22, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. that he will attend with a representative from Sheffield.

#### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES**

Mari reported a letter was received from Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito advising the Town that the Legislature approved the supplementary budget which included an additional \$20 million in Chapter 90 aid for FY20 which is a ten percent (10%) increase over the usual fund amount. As a result, New Marlborough has received an additional \$34,071 in Chapter 90 funds for this year only, which increases Chapter 90 funds for the Town to \$374,778.

#### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN UPDATES**

1. Tara advised that Bill Kelly passed away Friday. Bill was the person who helped with the hearing devices at Town hall. Tara would like to send condolences to his family. Mari will write a letter on behalf of the Board.
  - Tara also advised that the Eight Town School Consolidation Committee met last Tuesday and she believes this may be its last meeting. Seven of the eight towns had voted to go ahead with the planning committee. Stockbridge was the only town not heard from but it was to be on their agenda Thursday night. Some towns have already chosen their people and have their planning committees ready to go. The 24 people chosen to be on the committee will vote to form the Regional Planning Board who will then move forward in evaluating the consolidation of the schools. Two grant applications have been filed with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), one was filed on behalf of the eight towns and the other was from the Town of Egremont. George McGurn (Egremont representative) was asked if he would be in favor if the group sent a letter to DESE asking if one grant was approved, would he support having the eight town Group 1 approved. A letter was sent to DESE stating that the group had met and that Egremont approved of supporting the eight towns' grant for the \$50,000.
2. Nat reported the Board had received a request to appoint Joyce Hackett to the Cultural Council which will be put on the next agenda.
  - Nat also reported there is a meeting on January 16 at 3 p.m. to discuss evaluation of the performance of the treasurer over the past six months.

- On January 16 at 6:30 there is a joint meeting between the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. Nat is going to a Roundtable Meeting at 5:00 p.m. that day and asked Tara to chair that meeting if he is not back.
- The next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be on Monday, January 27 at 6:00 p.m. because Monday, January 20 is Martin Luther King Day.

**ADMINISTRATIVE: FINANCIAL WARRANTS, BUSINESS LICENSES, STATE CONTRACT, OTHER**

A second page for ABCC submission was signed by the Board.

License Renewals

Business licenses were signed for Daley & Sons Trucking/JTC & Sons; Berkshire Springs, Inc./BSHC Operations LLC; Schmeizl Strategic Services; Farm Country Soup, Inc.; Kettering Antiques, and Cantor Concrete and Masonry.

**A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the above business licenses as submitted.**

Warrants have been signed

**REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 2020.**

**A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of January 6, 2020 as amended.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**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 7:56 p.m.**

Approved by:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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Administrative Secretary