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Present: Nicholas A. Hay, John F. Fairbanks, and Thomas P. O’Toole

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hay called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen’s Office at Town Hall.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS/MINUTES

Mr. O’Toole moved that the Board approve the regular session minutes of August 31, 2009, as printed. Mr. Fairbanks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. O’Toole moved that the Board approve the regular session minutes of September 9, 2009, with a change in the wording; Board members informally agreed to postpone voting on the selection of a Town Planner until the Board’s next meeting on Monday, September 14. Mr. Fairbanks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board members reviewed and approved the following warrants:

September 13, 2009	Payroll Storm #17S	\$ 6,107.08
September 14, 2009	Accounts Payable #18	\$ 251,723.31
	Payroll #17	\$ 150,754.39

EMERGENCY BORROWING – DOR

Mr. O’Toole moved that the Board sign a letter to the Department of Revenue requesting permission for emergency state borrowing for the ice storm. Mr. Fairbanks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

120 DAY WAIVER

Mr. O’Toole moved that the Board authorize Chairman Hay to sign the 120 Day Waiver as required by Massachusetts Regulations Chapter 301 Section 50.0, as to a parcel of land of approximately 70 +/- acres on East Road in the Town of Westminster, in which the Department of Conservation and Recreation is considering acquiring an interest.

TOWN PLANNER SELECTION

Mr. O’Toole moved that the Board approve the appointment of David Holtzman as Town Planner subject to successful negotiations. Mr. Fairbanks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MIXED USE OVERLAY COMMITTEE

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board approve the appointment of Linda Wiest to the Mixed Use Overlay Committee. Mr. O’Toole seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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WYMAN POND ACCESS

Mr. O’Toole moved that the Board authorize the gating (with a lock box) and proper signage of the public access off Edro Isle to Wyman Pond. The gating will be from Memorial Day until 1 week after Labor Day. Mr. Fairbanks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER – RENEW STATE AID NOTE

Mr. O’Toole moved that the Board approve the request from Treasurer/Collector Melody Gallant to renew borrowing in the amount of \$117,613.18 for the North Common, Battles Road Bridge and South Street Projects from the Bank of Western Mass with an interest rate of 1.68%. Mr. Fairbanks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TRICK OR TREATING

Mr. O’Toole moved that the Board approve Trick or Treating on Saturday, October 31, 2009, from 5 to 7 pm. Mr. Fairbanks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SELECTMAN O’TOOLE

Mr. O’Toole announced that he has accepted a promotion which results in his relocating to Maine. As a result of this, he will be resigning his position as Selectman effective November 1, 2009.

SPECIAL ELECTION

Mr. O’Toole moved that the Board schedule November 17, 2009 as a Special Election for purposes of electing a new Selectman. Mr. Fairbanks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

STANDARD & POORS

Treasurer/Collector Melody Gallant was pleased to announce that S & P has recognized the Town for its financial stability and has upgraded the bond rating by two grades to AA. She explained that the number one reason for the bond rating is the strong reserve balances the Town presently has.

BUDGETS

Advisory Board Chairman Ken Burstall explained to the Board that there were two options for coming up with the FY10 estimated shortage of \$200,000. Either the town departments reduce their budgets or raise taxes.

Mr. O’Toole moved that in consideration of the continued high rate of unemployment in Westminster and in keeping with the Board’s stated goal of maintaining taxes at FY09 levels, the Board vote to institute an immediate freeze on all non-essential spending. Department heads will be required to obtain written approval from the Town Coordinator prior to incurring an expense that does not fall under one of the following categories:

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- ~ Salaries
- ~ Properly procured contractual obligations
- ~ Expenses arising from provisions of collective bargaining/employment agreements
- ~ Regularly monthly recurring expenses, such as:
  - ~ Building utilities
  - ~ Routine motor vehicle maintenance
  - ~ Motor vehicle fuel
- ~ Meetings/conferences required to maintain certification only

7:50 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board meet in executive session to discuss contract negotiations. Mr. O’Toole seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. It was noted that the Board would adjourn directly from executive session.

The Board adjourned from executive session at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas P. O’Toole, Clerk  
(Prepared by B. Kazan)