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Present: John F. Fairbanks, Laila J. Michaud, Joseph E. Flanagan

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Goodwin questioned whether all boards are aware that they need to submit minutes. He also requested that the town website include readily visible email addresses for each department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/WARRANTS

Ms. Michaud moved that the Board approve the minutes of June 21, 2010 as printed. Motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Board members reviewed and approved the following warrants for payment:

6/28/2010	Accounts Payable	\$ 106,473.00
7/1/2010	Accounts Payable	\$1,239,827.40

ROUTE 2A BRIDGE WEIGHT LIMITS

Fire Chief Brenton MacAloney and Police Chief Salvatore Albert were in attendance to report on recent developments regarding the bridge on Route 2A, which crosses Route 2. Chief Albert advised that he was informed last week by a MassDOT engineer that the bridge was in poor condition and had been posted with weight restrictions. Chief MacAloney stated that these limits prevent all of the larger fire apparatus from crossing the bridge, which will result in a delay in response time to any emergency calls requiring this equipment in the northeast segment of town. Both Chiefs advised that they had no prior knowledge of the situation, and that it was their understanding that MassDOT had conducted an inspection of the bridge in June 2009, with a report being issued several months later. The bridge is scheduled for repairs, but the length of time for the project is unknown. Chief Albert added that the signage in the area is inadequate in that it does not provide sufficient warning to allow overweight vehicles to seek an alternate route.

Chief MacAloney pointed out that the State is also planning to make repairs to the Route 2 bridge over West Main Street this summer, which will add to the traffic and emergency response challenges.

Board members expressed outrage with the lack of communication and information provided by the State in this matter. Ms. Michaud moved that the Board request the Town Administrator to draft a letter to MassDOT expressing the Board’s concerns in this regard and inviting the district director to attend a meeting of the Board. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

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JULY 22, 2010 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Board members considered two articles for inclusion on the July 22 Special Town Meeting warrant. The first article requests an appropriation to fund the remainder of the police education incentive payment for FY2010 for which the state did not provide reimbursement. Ms. Michaud moved that the Board also include an article to see if the Town will vote to accept a donation of land from Eino Jarvenpaa. The motion was duly seconded. Upon discussion, it was voted to include both articles on the warrant.

ZBA APPOINTMENT OF REGULAR MEMBER

Ms. Michaud moved that the Board approve the appointment of Matthew Kotoski as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. It was noted that Mr. Kotoski is currently an associate member and would be replacing Paul Bartkus as a regular member. The motion was unanimously approved.

WESTMINSTER BUSINESS PARK – REQUEST FOR HEARING FOR PERMIT EXTENSION

Chuck Scott of CFS Engineering was in attendance on behalf of the Westminster Business Park to request that the Board schedule a hearing to consider the further extension of the Business Park’s earth removal permit to the spring of 2011. He noted that there is approximately 55,000 cubic yards of material remaining to be removed, but the majority of the additional time is to allow for the stabilization and restoration of the site.

Bud Taylor questioned whether the Board of Selectmen has the authority under the bylaw to grant an additional extension of the permit. Mrs. Murphy advised that she has requested an opinion from town on this matter.

Ms. Michaud moved that the Board schedule a hearing on July 19 to consider the extension of the Westminster Business Park’s Phase I earth removal permit. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

CONTINUATION OF ARTICLE

Mrs. Murphy requested that the Board vote to continue Article 20 of the May 1, 2007 Annual Town Meeting for an additional year, as allowed by bylaw. The purpose of the article was for the hiring of a consultant to conduct an employee compensation, benefits and policy review. Of the remaining \$5,500, a portion will be used for a legal review of the personnel handbook and policies and a review of the job descriptions for legal form and to determine which positions are exempt and non-exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Ms. Michaud moved to approve the request; motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

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SENIOR CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Michaud updated the Board members on her recent attendance at a Senior Center Building Committee meeting. She reported that the Committee met with Shelly Hatch from MRPC to discuss the grant application for design services for the new senior center. Ms. Michaud stated that the Committee would like to use the funds available in two existing articles to bring utilities to the site. A question arose as to whether the proposed work falls within the scope of the articles. Mr. Fairbanks asked that this matter be placed on the Board’s next agenda and that Mrs. Murphy provide the Board with a copy of the wording of the articles.

REAPPOINTMENT – PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER

Acting on the request of Chief Albert, Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board vote to reappoint Nathan Hawkins to a one-year term as a part-time police officer. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

8:20 p.m. -- EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Michaud moved that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. It was noted that the Board would adjourn directly from executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned from executive session at 9:40 p.m.

Joseph E. Flanagan, Clerk
(Prepared by K. Murphy)