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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. Mr. Fairbanks stated that this meeting was being broadcast live and recorded by Ashburnham Westminster Community Access TV and confirmed with those present that no other party was taking an audio or video recording of the meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Goodwin acknowledged the efforts of many of the Town Boards and Commissions to comply with the new Open Meeting Law. He raised concern with how new members of the Town Boards and Commissions were being trained. The Town Clerk was present and reported that all new appointees have been given a copy and signed that they have received it. They also must take the state required “Ethics” test and pass in a paper of completion. The “Ethics” test may be accessed by anyone through [MA.gov/ethics](http://MA.gov/ethics).

#### Town Hall Reuse Committee

Joe Flanagan stated that the Town Hall Reuse Committee has been active, but more members are needed to participate.

### **HEARINGS / OTHER SCHEDULED MATTERS**

#### State Aid Anticipation Note – Chapter 90

Treasurer Melody Gallant requested approval on a State Aid Note to borrow \$319,000 for resurfacing and reclamation of Dean Hill Road, Laws Road, Narrows Road, and engineering for the South Street project. The Board voted unanimously to authorize and sign the Chapter 90 State Aid Anticipation Note in the amount of \$319,000. with UniBank for Savings with an interest rate of 1.14%.

#### Ambulance Renewal

Fire Chief MacAloney is in the process of applying for the annual license to operate the ambulance service at the advanced level. He is required to request a staffing waiver from the Office of Emergency Medical Services as the ambulance does not always respond with two paramedics. This law requiring two paramedics was recently changed as part of the Municipal Relief Package signed by the Governor this week; however, they recommended that the waiver request be submitted as they will not have time to reflect these changes to the regulations by the end of August. Chief MacAloney also asked that Selectmen sign a paramedic staffing plan. Joe Flanagan moved to sign both letters. The motion was seconded by Laila Michaud and passed unanimously.

Police Chief – Declaration of Surplus Property

Police Chief Albert requested the Selectmen declare the Police Department boat, boat trailer, and ATV as surplus property. He would like to trade them in and purchase an ATV using funds from a grant. Laila Michaud moved that the Board declare these items as surplus property and trade-in for a new ATV. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JOINT WESTMINSTER/ASHBURNHAM SELECTMEN’S MEETING**

John Fairbanks moved to accept the Minutes of July 27, 2010 of the Joint Westminster/Ashburnham Selectmen’s Meeting written by Ed Vitone. Joe Flanagan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**OTHER MATTERS**

Agricultural Commission

The Agricultural Commission discussed exempting the farm animal excise tax at a recent meeting and is requesting that this be brought to Town Meeting. The Board would like to refer this to the Advisory Board for their recommendations.

EDF Grant – Animal Hospital

The Town oversees the Economic Development Fund Grant for Wachusett Animal Hospital. Laila Michaud moved to authorize the chairman to sign the form verifying the number of employees employed by the Animal Hospital under the EDF grant. Joe Flanagan seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Request of Waiver, Route 2A Bridge

The Town is requesting a waiver for emergency response vehicles to travel across the Route 2A bridge over Route 2. Weight restrictions were imposed which prevent larger pieces of fire apparatus from crossing the bridge. The State engineer has reviewed the restrictions and will be recommending changes to the weight restrictions. Some vehicles will still exceed the weight limits. MassDOT will assist the Town in getting waivers.

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

Board members reviewed and approved the following warrants for payment:

8/2/2010	#6	Accounts Payable	\$1,104,185.38
8/2/2010	#7	Payroll	163,700.57

**7:38 p.m. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

John Fairbanks moved that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of conducting negotiations with nonunion personnel and discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining, and that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town. It was noted that the Board would adjourn directly from executive session. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned from executive session at 10:08 p.m.

Joseph E. Flanagan, Clerk  
(prepared by S. Kalagher)