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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 7:36 p.m. in the Selectmen’s Office at Town Hall. He announced that the meeting was being broadcast live and recorded by Ashburnham Westminster Community Access TV; he also confirmed with those present that no other party was taking an audio or video recording of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS/MINUTES

Ms. Michaud moved that the Board approve the regular session minutes of January 31 and February 14, 2011 as printed. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board members reviewed and approved the following warrants:

February 16, 2011	Deduction #51D	\$ 151,338.45
February 21, 2011	Accounts Payable #52	\$ 120,142.88
February 28, 2011	Accounts Payable #54	\$1,025,598.72
	Payroll #53	\$ 163,874.87

AGRICULTUAL COMMISSION – ALTERNATE

Ms. Michaud moved to appoint Mary-Louise Altobelli as an Alternate to the Agricultural Commission. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION – PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Fairbanks announced that the party who requested this agenda item was unable to attend the BOS meeting due to illness and therefore the Board would address his concerns at a later meeting if requested.

APPROVE FY2011 SNOW & ICE DEFICIT SPENDING

Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board authorize the Chairman to sign the FY2011 Deficit Spending Authorization which authorizes expenditures in excess of available appropriations for snow and ice removal. This authorization is effective immediately and will expire on June 30, 2011. Ms. Michaud seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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FY2012 BUDGET REVIEW

Police Chief Sam Albert was on hand to discuss his proposed FY12 budgets for the Police and Animal Control Departments.

He indicated that the Police Department’s overall budget was increasing 2.08% mostly due to fuel expenses increasing. The Animal Control budget increase reflects a proposed Animal Control Assistant position representing a \$4,000 increase.

Town Clerk Denise MacAloney was on hand to discuss her proposed FY 12 budgets for the Town Clerk and Election & Registration Departments.

She indicated that the Town Clerk Department was being level funded and the Election & Registration Department was decreasing by approximately 20% due to the decrease in elections and town meetings.

2010 CENSUS UPDATE

Town Clerk Denise MacAloney stated that the preliminary census results will allow the Town to stay with two Precincts but the boundary lines between the precincts will change slightly.

ATM Article

The Board agreed to put a Mass Watershed Coalition article for consideration on the list of proposed articles for the Annual Town Meeting. The funds would be for the creation of A Community Guide to Growing Greener and the development of Low Impact Development Regulations.

8:17 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to conduct negotiations with nonunion personnel; further, that the Chair declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town, and to adjourn directly from executive session. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned from executive session at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph E. Flanagan, Clerk
(Prepared by B. Kazan)