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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. 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 MINUTES/WARRANTS

Ms. Michaud moved that the Board approve the regular session minutes of March 31 and April 4, 2011 as printed. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion.

Board members reviewed and approved the following warrants:

April 11, 2011 Accounts Payable #62	\$806,499.30
Payroll #63	\$170,063.26

PAYROLL CHANGE REQUEST AUTHORIZATION

Ms. Michaud moved that the Board approve a payroll change request for a part time Crocker Pond Attendant/Supervisor. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF TOWN PLANNER SEARCH COMMITTEE

Mrs. Murphy reported that the Town Planner Search Committee received 33 letters of interest for the Town Planner position. A total of Fourteen of applicants were interviewed; Six candidates were chosen as finalists; one candidate declined due to salary considerations. So there are five finalists for the Board to consider.

Mrs. Murphy asked the Board to review the proposed questions and get back to her with their comments.

The Board agreed to interview the candidates on Saturday, April 30th pending Mr. Flanagan checking his schedule. The Board also agreed to a backup date of Monday, April 25th if the 30th didn’t work.

FINALIZE TOWN MEETING WARRANTS

The Board agreed to the following:

- Article #41 (Solar project parcel off Meetinghouse Road) will remain on warrant.
- Article #42 will be reworded according to the recommendations of Town Counsel.
- Article #43 (Abandon a section of Turnpike Road) will be removed from the warrant.

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Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board approve forty-two Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles and five Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SCHEDULE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board schedule a Special Town Meeting for Tuesday, May 17, 2011, at the Westminster Elementary School for the purpose of re-voting the school budget if needed. Ms. Michaud seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICY REVIEW/APPROVAL

Ms. Michaud moved that the Board approve the draft of the Standards of Conduct for Elected and Appointed Town Officials with a change to Corrective Action ‘Anyone who feels that a board member is acting inconsistently with these standards of conduct may take one or more of the following actions, as deemed appropriate in priority order starting with a’. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Michaud moved that the Board approve the draft recommendations of Chief MacAloney for a policy for the retirement of Fire Department Turnout Gear as written. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST FROM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Board agreed to give permission to the Historical Society (once the Library Trustees have been notified) to examine and measure the storage cabinets and display cases which are stored in the Azarian Barn.

7:33 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and continue 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 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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