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Present: Laila J. Michaud, Joseph E. Flanagan, and Wayne R. Walker

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Michaud called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Selectmen’s Office at Town Hall. She announced that the meeting was being broadcast live and recorded by Ashburnham Westminster Community Access TV; she also confirmed with those present that no other party was taking an audio or video recording of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/WARRANTS

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the regular session minutes of October 3 and October 31, 2011 as printed. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Board members reviewed and approved the following warrants:

November 7, 2011	Accounts Payable #28	\$1,017,592.27
	Payroll #27	\$ 200,223.40
November 10, 2011	Deduction #27D	\$ 181,694.60
November 14, 2011	Accounts Payable #29	\$ 19,421.16

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Michaud announced that the Farmer’s Market would be having a Thanksgiving Farmers’ Market at the American Legion on Saturday, November 19, 2011.

CONTRACT AMENDMENT – WEBSITE DESIGN

Ms. Michaud stated that the Police and Fire Departments have incurred additional one-time costs for the design of their web pages. The changes will make the layout for their pages more department-specific. The charges (\$250 each) will be paid by the respective departments.

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve a contract amendment with Virtual Town Hall for one-time design/layout fees of \$500. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT REVIEW

The Board reviewed and assigned the motions for the Special Town Meeting warrant.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE 13

Dave Rocheford, Chairman of the Local Partnership Committee was on hand to update the Board on the Frog Hollow Road (Assessors' Map 135, parcel 8) Article 13. He stated that Habitat for Humanity would like to have the article moved forward at the Special Town Meeting even though Habitat for Humanity had not conducted a perc test.

Abutter Jason Runcie expressed concern that the actual deed did not reference the property being proposed. Mr. Rocheford indicated he had done research on the two acres and found that the deed did in fact reference the two acres on the east side of Frog Hollow Road.

Town Planner Steve Wallace recommended that the property be references by map and parcel number at the Special Town Meeting.

TREE REMOVAL – 46 CARTER ROAD

Ms. Michaud stated that the Tree Warden held a hearing for the removal of a tree located at 46 Carter Road. Two residents submitted written objections its removal; therefore, in accordance with MGL Ch. 87, s.4, the matter has come before the Board of Selection for a decision. In a letter from Tree Warden Joshua Hall he indicated that the Public Shade Tree Law, MGL Ch. 87 s 4 does not allow the Tree Warden to remove a tree if an objection in writing is made. The law however allows the Board of Selectmen to approve the removal of the tree.

After reviewing the comments made by all concerned parties, the Tree Warden recommended that the oak tree be removed. The tree creates a line of sight issue exiting the driveway at 46 Carter Road. Also, two new utility poles have been installed in front of 46 Carter Road. The electric company will not move the existing lines to the new poles because the tree will not allow for the proper clearance.

Resident Donna Brownell stated that it was her understanding that two other trees had already been removed. It was her opinion that any driveway having a tree at the end could have a sight issue.

DPW Director Joshua Hall arrived at the meeting. Ms. Michaud asked if there were two other trees removed. Mr. Hall said that he had been informed that a previous Tree Warden had approved the removal of three trees. Mr. Hall did not believe there was ever a hearing on this. One of the trees taken down was not on Town property. As far as the

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third tree, he stated that the DPW had a hearing and the Commission approved the removal of the third tree because the power company needed to take it down.

One resident inquired as to why the power company couldn't wire behind a tree in back of the house. Mr. Hall said that the location of the poles have to be on Town property.

The Board agreed to reconvene the hearing at a later time in order to be able to get more information from National Grid as to why they are taking this path.

DOG COMPLAINT RECOMMENDATIONS

Mrs. Murphy stated she was waiting to hear from the dog owner and would be finishing up her recommendation to the Board once she met with the owner. She said that at a hearing last week she heard testimony from five complainants, but the dog owner was unable to make the hearing due to an accident.

AMBULANCE ABATEMENT

Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board approve the recommendation of the Fire Chief to abate an ambulance bill (Call #WM11560) in the amount of \$99.07. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CAPITAL PLANNING ~ STM ARTICLE RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Michaud read the following correspondence: 'In a joint meeting of the Advisory board and Capital Planning Committee, the Capital Planning Committee voted the following recommendations for articles on the November 15, 2011 Special Town Meeting:

Article 6: Purchase of software for the Ambulance Department for \$25,000. Funding source: Ambulance receipts. 2-1 in favor.

Article 7: Purchase of Columbarium for Mount Pleasant Cemetery for \$47,000. Funding source: \$30,000 Free Cash, \$17,000 Cemetery Perpetual Care Funds. 3-0 in favor.'

MASS FILM OFFICE

Ms. Michaud read a letter addressed to the Massachusetts Film Office indicating that the Town is quite interested in becoming a "Film Friendly" community.

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6:51 P.M. - EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Michaud 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 negotiating position of the Town, and that the Board adjourn directly from executive session. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned from executive session at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne R. Walker, Clerk
(Prepared by B. Kazan)