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Present: Joseph E. Flanagan, Wayne R. Walker, and Heather M. Billings

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Selectmen’s Office at Town Hall. He announced that Kerry O’Brien from the Gardner News was recording the meeting. He also, noted that the meeting was not being broadcasted live nor recorded by the Ashburnham Westminster Community Access TV.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Congratulations to Simplex Grinnell in their global celebration. Thank you for being a good neighbor.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Board members reviewed and approved the following warrant:

September 27, 2012	Deduction #19D	\$	156,457.80
October 1, 2012	Accounts Payable #20	\$	455,290.49

HALLOWEEN BONFIRE

Ms. Billings moved that the Board approve a request from the Fire Department for a permit for the annual Halloween Bonfire to be held on October 31, 2012, at 7 p.m. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CROCKER POND RECREATION AREA COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board appoint Heather Billings as the Board of Selectmen voting member. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board appoint Kimberly Russell and Kathleen Brennan to the Crocker Pond Recreation Area Committee. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VETERANS’ SERVICES OFFICER INTERVIEWS

Mr. Flanagan thanked each of the three individuals for their service. He also indicated that the Board would make a decision at their next meeting scheduled for October 15, 2012.

Mr. Walker asked each individual to explain why he was the best candidate for the position.

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Mr. John Fairbank’s response was:

- Service to the Town for several years
- Committed
- Like to make a difference for the Veterans

Mr. Stan Herriott’s response was:

- Compassionate to Veterans’ issues
- Mission Driven

Mr. William (Bud) Taylor’s response was:

- Experience
- Education
- Reputation

### WESTMINSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINDOW SILLS

Mr. Flanagan stated seeing as winter is nearing and WES has a potential safety problem that can be fixed temporarily at no cost to the Town, I moved that we accept the offer to provide the no-cost fix. This motion recognizes the fix should be performed as if Westminster agreed this was a permanent solution. In the spring we will reevaluate the permanence of the repair and feasibility of providing the needed annual inspection and maintenance of this fix.

I further move that we place an article on the fall warrant to restore Ash-West’s budget by the costs associated with vetting the solution to this problem.

Mr. Walker stated he did not like the wording ‘temporary fix’ as Mr. Reynolds had indicated at the prior meeting that this would be a permanent.

The Board confirmed with Peter Normandin that there would be no cost for every sill on the WES building to be repaired.

Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board accept the offer to at least fix temporarily, perhaps permanently the sills at WES at no cost to the Town in accordance with the scope of service outlined by Mr. Peter Reynolds of McKenzie Engineering in his report dated September 7, 2012. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Billings seconded the motion Mr. Flanagan made to place an article on the Fall Town Meeting warrant to restore Ash-West’s budget by the costs associated with vetting the solution to this problem including costs to cover the Engineer to oversee the project. The motion passed unanimously.

### DISCUSS CONTINUATION OF HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Flanagan explained that the fund which supports the Home Heating Assistance Program generates about \$2,600 in interest each year.

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Mr. Walker moved that the Board authorize the continuance of the Home Heating Assistance Program not to exceed \$5,000 for this year. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – FUEL EFFICIENT VEHICLE POLICY**

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy with an amendment to page two, second paragraph, fourth sentence, adding 'and it is practicable'. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Billings also mentioned that the Energy Advisory Committee will be coming in on October 15<sup>th</sup> with their 20% energy reduction plan.

**LETTER TO FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION RE LAYOVER STATION**

Mr. Flanagan read the following statement;” I do not support the layover station project as it is currently designed. The design is 100% complete and MART and the MBTA have no intention of designing into the project economic development or noise reduction mitigation as was the basis of the 2010 Board of Selectmen’s support. Westminster gets none of the good and all of the bad from the Wachusett Station project. I believe this is the consensus of the Board and why the Board authorized Town Counsel to draft this letter.

Since I believe that every word written in this letter is accurate both in terms of the facts of the case and the will of the people – most clearly evidenced by the Town’s approval to fund the \$10,000 noise study – I move that the Board sign and deliver the letter by certified mail, as written, to Noah Berger of the Federal Transit Administration tomorrow.

Further, I move that the letter be converted to an electronic file and, at the earliest possible convenience, emailed to Noah Berger and copied to the parties as referenced at the end of the letter. Mr. Walker seconded the motion”.

Ms. Billings requested adding the word ‘therefore’ to page two, second paragraph.

Mr. Walker seconded the motion with the amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

**WESTMINSTER BUSINESS PARK – EARTH REMOVAL PERMIT LOT I-7**

Mr. Flanagan indicated that verbiage was added to page three, number 2, 9, and page six, number 23.

Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board approve the Westminster Business Park Earth Removal Permit – Lot I-7 with changes. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

