

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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 the meeting was being broadcast live and recorded by Ashburnham Westminster Community Access TV.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Wachusett Layover Station contract will be opened on March 19, 2013. The Layover Station is referred to as alternate #1 and in the contract bid quote they reserve the right to proceed without the layover station. The Board will be making a decision on referring the matter of the layover station to the Inspector General at their next meeting.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS/MINUTES

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the minutes for February 11, 2013. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board members reviewed and approved the following warrants:

March 4, 2013	Accounts Payable #53	\$ 59,496.83
March 5, 2013	Deduction #51SD	\$ 1,741.36
March 11, 2013	Payroll #55	\$ 189,387.90
	Accounts Payable #54	\$ 515,050.04

BORROWING ~ RENEW SOUTH STREET BAN

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the BAN renewal for the acquisition of easements for the South Street redesign project borrowing in the amount of \$262,500 with Greenfield Coop at an interest rate of .55%. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CONGREGATION CHURCH REQUEST TO USE TOWN COMMON

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the request from the First Congregational Church to use the Town Common for their Easter Sunrise service at 6:28 a.m. on March 31, 2013. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

~ ~

CONTRACT ~ SENIOR CENTER PROJECT MANAGER

Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board approve the signing of the Senior Center Project Management Services contract with Atlantic Construction & Management, Inc., not to exceed \$50,000. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FY 2014 BUDGET/WARRANT REVIEW ~ DPW

DPW Commissioners and DPW Director Joshua Hall were on hand to review their proposed FY14 budgets and articles for their various departments. Mr. Hall indicated that Article #24 (Annual Road Maintenance) could be reduced by \$200,000. He explained that there were no capital improvements scheduled for this year and Chapter 90 funds can make up the difference. He also stated that Article #26 (Highway Dump Truck) can be reduced by \$25,000 and Article #27 (Water/Sewer Van) reduced by \$5,000.

Concerns of the large increase in sewer bills from the city of Fitchburg were discussed. The Board asked if the Commissioners would consider attending one of their aired meetings to present information for the public on this topic.

Members of the Forbush Memorial Library Trustees and Library Director Nick Langhart were on hand to discuss their proposed FY 14 budget. Trustee Walter Haney explained that the Library is requesting a \$16,287 increase in the FY14 budget in order to meet State Minimum Requirements.

GENERAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Board agreed to schedule a meeting for next Monday (March 18) to provide the Advisory Board with answers regarding the School’s and Library’s budgets.

TG8 – MASTER PLAN

Mr. Flanagan explained that this draft Master Plan section has been out since August of last year. There are seven communities listed that about the Town. The Town cost per capita basis ranked #1 in many areas, compared to other towns.

ZONING CHANGE REFER TO PLANNING BOARD

Mr. Walker moved that the Board refer a zoning change regarding earth removal back to the Planning Board. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

~ ~

7:30 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Walker moved that the Board enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining; further that the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the body; and that the Board adjourn directly from executive session. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned from executive session at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather M. Billings, Clerk
(Prepared by B. Kazan)