

~ ~

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. He also noted that the Gardner News was recording the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Fire Chief MacAloney stated that this was the very first time he is making this type of presentation. What makes this unique is this individual put himself in harm’s way. The Chief explained that Christopher Brown a Worcester Road resident came to the rescue of a young lady whose car was on fire in an accident a few weeks ago. The Chief presented a Recognition Award to Christopher Brown.

On behalf of Jennifer Flanagan, Representative Kim Ferguson presented a citation for Mr. Brown’s selflessness and bravery above and beyond to rescue a fellow citizen in distress. Representative John Zlotnik presented a citation from the House of Representatives for Mr. Brown’s extraordinary acts of bravery.

The Board of Selectmen awarded a certificate of Commendation expressed sincere appreciation for Mr. Brown’s heroic acts.

Mr. Brown explained he was a Veteran and he feels that Westminster is a very wonderful community. He commended the Police and Fire Departments for the wonderful things they do every day. He is very grateful that he can call Westminster his home.

Liz Maillett, Mother of the young lady who was rescued, spoke about how she was notified that her daughter was in grave danger and being transported to UMass. Shortly after her family started hearing about Chris Brown a brave hero who saved her daughter’s life. “You are a true American Hero; you are an Angel in disguise. Thank You.”

GREEN COMMUNITY

Ms. Billings announced that the Energy Advisory Committee has received a grant in the amount of \$145,000. The EAC will be doing some energy efficient projects throughout the Town.

Mr. Flanagan commended the EAC for doing a great job.

~ ~

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS/MINUTES

Ms. Billings moved that the Board approve, but not publicly release the executive session minutes for October 15, 2012 as the matter to which the exception applies is still pending. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the regular session minutes for February 26, March 11, and March 18, 2013 as printed. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board members reviewed and approved the following warrants:

March 25, 2013	Accounts Payable #60	\$ 963,163.74
	Payroll #59	\$ 159,347.74

STATE AID BORROWING – BRUSH MOWER

Treasurer/Collector Melody Gallant was on hand to request the Board’s approval for Interfund borrowing in the amount of \$145,000 for the purchase of a brush mower for the Highway Department, to be reimbursed with Chapter 90 funds.

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve Interfund borrowing in the amount of \$145,000 for the purchase of a brush mower. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CEDs) PROJECT

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the Town’s application for inclusion of the Whitman River In-line Sewer Storage system project in the Montachusett Region’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

LETTER FOR FINAL REPORT TO DHCD re EDF GRANT

Mr. Walker moved that the Board authorize the Chairman to sign a letter for final report to DHCD stating that an audit has been completed with no findings regarding the EDF Grant (Wachusett Animal Hospital Economic Development Fund grant). Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACT

The Board passed over this agenda item.

~ ~

72 DAVIS ROAD PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT

The Board passed over this agenda item.

REGIS CONSULTING ~ ONE YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve a one year extension of the contract with Regis Consulting. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RANOR – PROPOSED EXPANSION PROJECT – REQUEST FOR TIF

Ranor President Bob Francis and Sean Pepper from D.R. Poulin Construction were in attendance to present the Company’s proposed plans for expansion and request that the Board of Selectmen consider a TIF agreement. Mr. Pepper explained that Ranor is entering into a contract to build military components which warrants the expansion of a 19,500 square foot building with 70 foot high ceilings. In addition, this project would create forty to fifty new jobs at Ranor.

Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board vote to enter into discussion with Ranor for a TIF agreement. He further moved that the Town Administrator, Town Planner, and one member from each of the following Boards; Board of Selectmen, Assessors, and Advisory Board be assigned to work with Ranor on the TIF. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MBTA LAYOVER DISCUSSION

Mr. Walker moved that the Board sign the letter to the Inspector General’s office requesting a review of misrepresentation, waste and mismanagement in the awarding of a grant for the MBTA Wachusett Extension Project (Award No. MA-78-0002). The Board’s specific concerns relate to the commuter train layover facility component of the project. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FY2014 BUDGET/WARRANT REVIEW

On behalf of the Planning Board, Chairman Bud Taylor was on hand to request that the Board remove the Earth Removal Zoning Bylaw article from the warrant and insert another zoning article to place a moratorium on medical marijuana treatment centers.

Mr. Walker moved that the Board refer article #37(moratorium bylaw) back to the Planning Board for a hearing, in compliance with MGL Ch. 40A, s.5. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed a draft of the Annual Town Meeting articles.

The Board asked Superintendent Hicks to ask the School Committee to have another meeting and reconsider certifying another budget.

~ ~

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board call a Special Town Meeting within the Annual Town Meeting on May 4, 2013 at 1 p.m. for purposes of supplementing this year’s Snow & Ice budget and to open and close the warrant tonight. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7:05 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 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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