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

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Candidates Night will be held at the Library on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.
- Town Elections will be held April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Westminster Elementary School from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. at the Westminster Elementary School
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Rotary Vocational Award is being awarded to Susan Lucier, Technical Services Librarian at the Forbush memorial Library. The award will be presented on May 9<sup>th</sup> at a ceremony to be held at the Wachusett Village Inn.
- The Open Space Committee and Master Plan Committee are seeking input from the public to assist in updating the Town's Open Space & Recreation Plan. A public forum will be held on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Forbush Memorial Library.
- The Board acknowledged the passing of DPW worker Scott Smith.

#### APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Board members reviewed and approved the following warrants:

April 16, 2013	Accounts Payable #64	\$618,402.34
April 22, 2013	Payroll #65	\$162,933.04
	Accounts Payable #66	\$ 25,237.64

#### REQUEST TO ABATE AMBULANCE BILLS

Mr. Walker moved that based on the recommendation of the Fire Chief, the Board abate two ambulance bills totaling \$1,958.40. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION – POLICE MATRON

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the payroll authorization for a Police Matron. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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**NOTICE OF INTENT TO SELL CHAPTER 61B CLASSIFIED PROPERTY – 21 PIERCE ROAD – RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL**

Mr. Flanagan stated that the Board of Selectmen is in receipt of a Notice of Intent to sell Chapter 61B classified property consisting of approximately 29 acres at 21 Pierce Road in Westminster. The Board is holding this public hearing to determine whether or not to exercise the town’s option to purchase this property.

Comments were received from the Assessors, Planning Board, Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, and DPW Commission.

Seeing as though the Town sees no option for using this land, Mr. Walker moved that the Board decline its option to purchase the 29 acres at 21 Pierce Road. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**CROCKER POND RECREATION AREA COMMITTEE – PROPOSED REVISIONS TO DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the revisions to the Crocker Pond Recreation Area Committee duties and responsibilities as presented by the Committee. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**CROCKER POND RECREATION AREA COMMITTEE – APPROVE 2013 RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the C.P.R.A.C 2013 rules and regulations as presented. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOUNT GRACE LAND TRUST – PROPOSED CONSERVATION RESTRICTION – BRAGG HILL ROAD**

Paul Daniello from the Mount Grant Land Trust was on hand to request the Board’s consideration regarding the pursuit of a conservation restriction on 72 acres of land owned by Lenard and Amy Engman of Bragg Hill Road.

He explained that the Town is being asked to contribute \$25,000 towards the value of the restriction.

Town Planner Steve Wallace weighed in indicating that this property abuts Muddy Pond and would provide a new link to the Mid-State Trail at a reasonable cost.

Mr. Walker moved that the Board refer to the Open Space Committee and Advisory Board the subject of pursuing a possible acquisition in the amount of \$135,000 for land owned by Lenard and Amy Engman on Bragg Hill Road. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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**MONTY TECH OFFICIALS – DISCUSSION RE REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHMENT OF STABILIZATION FUND**

Mr. Flanagan recused himself from the discussion. Barbara Reynolds, Chair of the Monty Tech School Committee and Business Manager Tammy Lajoie were on hand to request a favorable recommendation from the Board to establish a stabilization fund.

Ms. Lajoie explained that they were just looking to establish not request funding for a capital stabilization fund. She further explained that the reason for the request would help address Monty Tech’s many capital needs.

Concerns were voiced over if a stabilization fund is established there would be nothing to stop increases to this fund. Ms. Lajoie indicated that they would have to go to eighteen communities to get an okay.

The Board agreed to make a decision on the request prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

**REVIEW TOWN MEETING MOTIONS**

The Board reviewed the Annual Town Meeting warrant and motions were assigned.

**RANOR TIF**

Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board authorize Town Administrator Karen Murphy to meet with Ranor to discuss their request for a TIF. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**7:40 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 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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