

~ ~

Present: Wayne R. Walker, Heather M. Billings and John F. Fairbanks

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Walker 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

•Wednesday, June 5th at 7 p.m. in the Selectmen’s chambers, the Economic Development Committee will host a special guest speaker, Peter Abair, Director of Economic Development & Global Affairs, of Massachusetts Biotechnology Council. He will be speaking about his organization, what they do and who they serve as well as what the Town of Westminster can do to attract Biotechnology firms.

•On Wednesday, June 19th at 7 p.m. in the Selectmen’s chambers, the Master Plan Committee will host Jeffrey Lacy, Regional Planner, DCR Division of Water Supply Protection. The topic will be on natural resource protection zoning.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Ms. Billings moved that the Board approve the regular session minutes of April 8 and April 22, 2013. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed with two in favor and one abstention.

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board approve the regular session minutes of May 6 and May 13, 2013. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board members reviewed and approved the following warrants:

May 20, 2013 Payroll #71	\$177,484.71
Accounts Payable #72	\$216,695.04
May 21, 2013 Deduction #71D	\$160,514.24
May 28, 2013 Accounts Payable #73	\$ 64,007.90
June 3, 2013 Accounts Payable #74	\$109,221.17
Payroll #75	\$243,905.00

BORROWING – REPAY INTERFUND BORROWING

Treasurer/Collector Melody Gallant was on hand to request the Board’s approval for a repayment of interfund borrowing of Chapter 90 road-related projects in the amount of \$165,992.33.

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board approve the State Aid Anticipation Note – Chapter 90 for road-related projects in the amount of \$165,992.33 with People’s United Bank at

~ ~

an interest rate of .55%. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Gallant also requested the Board’s approval to renew a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) for the South Street Water Mains Project in the amount of \$400,000.00.

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board approve a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) for the South Street Water Main Project in the amount of \$400,000.00 with People’s United Bank at an interest rate of .59%. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SPECIAL ELECTION WARRANT – JUNE 25, 2013

Ms. Billings moved that the Board approve the Special Election Warrant for June 25th to fill the vacant position of a U.S. Senator. Mr. Fairbanks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT – CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board appoint Joe Flanagan to the Cable Advisory Committee. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

USE OF THE TOWN COMMON ~ TOWN BENEFIT ~ AUGUST 11

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board approve the request from Neighbors Helping Neighbors to hold their annual fundraiser event on the Town Common on August 11, 2013. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION – CEMETERY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board approve a payroll authorization for a Part Time Cemetery Laborer. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board members stated that they had received concerns over the lack of maintenance at some of the cemeteries over Memorial Day and expressed assurance that these concerns would be taken care of in the future.

YEAR –END APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS

Mr. Walker stated the Board had two requests for year-end appropriation transfers. The first request is from the Town Administrator seeking a transfer from the Workers’ Compensation line item to the Property/Liability Insurance line item in the amount of \$18,000. Essentially this is a line item transfer within the same budget. The second request is from the Town Planner seeking a transfer for \$79.56 from the Town Planner’s budget to cover expenses in the Planning Board budget.

~ ~

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board approve the request to transfer \$18,000 from the Workers' Compensation line item to the Property/Liability Insurance line item. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board approve the request to transfer \$79.56 from the Town Planner's budget to cover advertising expenses in the Planning Board budget. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION – PARKS & RECREATION

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board approve Payroll Authorizations for four new hires for the Summer Recreation Program. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2013 RE-APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board re-appoint the following individuals:

Three Year Terms:

Agricultural Commission	Andy	Hertel
Board of Registrar	Roger	Gerard
Conservation Commission	Daniel	Bartkus
Conservation Commission	Robert	Gendron
Conservation Commission	Tim	Sheehan
Council on Aging	William	Antoniac
Council on Aging	Jessica	Rollins Mercier
Cultural Council	Valerie	Antoniac
Cultural Council	Marta	Klemetti
Cultural Council	Susan	Yraola
Full Time Police Officer	Kent	Benson
Full Time Police Officer	Sgt. Leroy	Hawkins, Jr.
Full Time Police Officer	Ralph	LeBlanc
Full Time Police Officer	Lt. Michael	McDonald
Full Time Police Officer	Richard	Michel
Full Time Police Officer	Amy	Nelson
Full Time Police Officer	Sgt. Edward	Robbins
Full Time Police Officer	Jeffrey	Shampine
Full Time Police Officer	Jason	Tamulen
Full Time Police Officer	Jason	Wetherbee
Historical Commission	Elizabeth	Hannula
Historical Commission	Joan	Longcope
Liquor Commission	Allison	Streeter

~ ~

Parks & Recreation	Mark	Dellasanta
Public Works Commission	Vance	Butterfield
Town Accountant	Donna	Allard
Town Administrator	Karen	Murphy
Tree Warden	Joshua	Hall
Veterans' Graves Officer	Mark	Landry
Wachusett Mtn. Advisory Council	William	Wintturi
Wachusett Mtn. Advisory Council Alternate	Chris	Mossman
Zoning Board - Associate	John	Bowen

One Year Terms:

Animal Control Officer	Mark	Ransom
Assistant Animal Control Officer	Monica	Kleber
Assistant Inspector of Wiring	Richard	Cannavino
Assistant Inspector of Wiring	Harry	Parvianen
Ass't. Insp. of Plumb. & Gas Piping	Wayne	Little
Ass't. Veterans' Services Agent	Phillip	Buso
Building Commissioner - Part Time	Michael	Gallant
Building Commissioner - Part Time (Alternate)	Richard	Reynolds
Emergency Management	Charles	Clarkson
Emergency Management	Jeffrey	Curtis
Emergency Management	Gilbert	Parks
Fire Chief, Forest Warden & EM Dir.	Brenton	MacAloney
Full Time Police Officer	Nicholas	Auffrey
Full Time Police Officer - K9	Caesar	K-9
Insp. of Plumbing & Gas Piping	Tom	Wiinikainen
Inspector of Wiring	Loring H.	Barrett
Local Inspector	David	Lantry
Local Inspector	Peter	Munro
MART Advisory Board	Louise	Garland-Wheelen
MOC Ashburnham Representative	Nicholas	DeSimone
Part Time Police Officer	Kevin	Boucher
Part Time Police Officer	Steven	Couture
Part Time Police Officer	Matthew	Espie
Part Time Police Officer	Jeffrey	Giles
Part Time Police Officer	Nathan	Hawkins
Part Time Police Officer	Andrew	Loescher
Part Time Police Officer	Joseph	Picariello
Police Chief & Special Constable	Salvatore	Albert, Jr.
Police Matron	Debra	Comiskey
Police Matron	Nanette	Pierce
Police Matron	Michelle	Chevarie

~ ~

Town Counsel	Kopelman & Paige
Veterans' Service Agent	Stan Herriott
Weighers, Sealers & Measurer of Commodities	Jason Tamulen

Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT FEE INCREASES

The Board agreed to put the request from the Building Commissioner to modify the fees for the Building Department on hold for further clarification.

DISCUSS LETTER FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Walker stated the BOS received a response from the Office of Inspector General in response to the Board's concerns and complaints on the MBTA's Wachusett Extension Project. The Board brought to their attention on several occasions, legitimate concerns regarding the construction of a layover facility which would take a prime building lot out of Westminster Business Park and be used for their services, pay no taxes and provide no other services for the Town of Westminster. As a result the BOS requested their investigation to the background of the TIGR Grant and the fact that the Board sees no benefit to the Town of Westminster.

Mr. Walker read the response from the OIG "We have carefully reviewed the material you provided, elected not to pursue an investigation and our case is now closed". The response was entirely unsatisfactory response but not sure if there is anything the Board can do about this.

Former Selectman Joe Flanagan commented that it is "time to move on". He requested that the Board never allow the BOS to be "railroaded" again and suggested that the Planning Board have representation at MRPC meetings, and have a BOS representative at MART and consider incorporating stipends for both representatives.

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board authorize the Chair to contact Congressman Tsongas's office to see if anything can be done and invite her to meet with Town Officials. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Taylor suggested that from the Planning Board's view this might be a way to solve the economic development on a sewer extension. They will need to be doing something and may work to the Town's advantage to work as a team with boards and committees for sewer permits.

Mr. Walker indicated that all of our elected/appointed boards and committees are looking to work collaboratively.

~ ~

6:48 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Walker moved that the Board enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with non-union personnel; 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. Mr. Fairbanks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned from executive session at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Fairbanks, Clerk
(Prepared by B. Kazan)