

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

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 recorded by Ashburnham Westminster Community Access TV.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Master Plan Committee will host a workshop on what our Town Center could look like in the future. The workshop will be held at the Forbush Memorial Library on Saturday, April 12th from 9 am to 1 pm. (Snow date of April 19th – check the Town’s website). The workshop will start with a presentation, then a walking tour of the Town Center along Main Street returning to the Library to conclude with a discussion about what people want our Town Center to look like in the future.
- The Board acknowledged the generous donation from Aubuchon Hardware of paint and workers to paint the Senior Center.

APPROVED MINUTES/WARRANTS

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board approve the minutes of March 3, 2014 as printed. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Board members reviewed and approved the following warrants:

March 10, 2014	Payroll #55	\$ 161,024.73
	Accounts Payable #52	\$1,119,596.00

911 EQUIPMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board authorize the Chairman to sign the annual application for the Dispatch Center in the amount of \$21,129. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

LETTER OF SUPPORT – OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of support regarding the draft 2014 Open Space & Recreation Plan. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

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

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION ~ TREASURER/COLLECTOR

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board approve the Payroll Authorization to hire a part time Treasurer/Collector Clerk as approved at a previous Board of Selectmen meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

TREASURER/COLLECTOR ~ BAN SOUTH STREET PROJECT

Treasurer/Collector Melody Gallant was on hand to request the Board’s approval of a Bond Anticipation Note renewal in the amount of \$175,000 for the South Street Project.

Mr. Fairbanks moved to authorize the issuance of a BAN renewal in the amount of \$175,000 with Greenfield Cooperative Bank with an interest rate of .59%. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

TREASURER/COLLECTOR – FINANCIAL POLICIES

Treasurer/Collector Melody Gallant was on hand to present the Board with drafts on Debt management and Reserve policies. The Board agreed to review the recommendations and to distribute drafts to Department Heads for their input.

TREASURER/COLLECTOR BOND RATING

Treasurer/Collector Melody Gallant was on hand to explain that every two years Standard & Poor’s conducts random surveys. This year she was happy to announce that the Town now has an S & P rating of AA+. This rating is one level below the highest possible rating. She thanked everyone who helped in this achievement.

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION – FEE SCHEDULE

ML Altobelli, Chairman of the Agricultural Commission was on hand to request the Boards approval of the revised Vendor Rules and Regulations for 2014. She explained that the regulations included changes to the fee structure from \$100 to \$120 for booth fees at the Farmers’ Market, and \$10 to \$15 for per diem rates. The Commission would also like to offer an “opportunity booth for in-town food producers” (1/2 the booth space) for an annual fee of \$60.

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the proposed Vendor Rules and Regulations and add a \$5 per diem rate for the “Opportunity Booth”. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

AWCA-TV OFFER OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR LEGAL SERVICES FOR CABLE

AWCATV Director Matt Bourgault was on hand to explain the AWCATV offer. He stated that his Board would like to offer to pay 94% of the legal fees associated with the upcoming Comcast contract.

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

Mr. Walker explained that Town Counsel’s opinion was that the acceptance would not violate Chapter 268A, the Conflict of Interest Law, for the Board of Selectmen to accept this gift. Counsel did recommend disclosures be filed by each Selectman to avoid an appearance of a conflict. Each Board of Selectman agreed to file a disclosure.

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board accept the offer from the AWCATV to pay 94% of the legal fees. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

OLD TOWN HALL NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

On behalf of the OTH Needs Assessment Committee Mr. Fairbanks requested that the Board consider reducing the number of members from nine positions to five positions. There are rarely enough members in attendance to meet a quorum.

Ms. Billings moved that the Board approve the request to reduce the Old Town Hall Needs Assessment Committee membership to five positions. The motion passed with two in favor and one abstention (John Fairbanks).

The Board of Selectmen agreed to table taking action on a proposal submitted by Betsy Hannula regarding the reuse of the Old Town Hall until the present Old Town Hall Needs Assessment Committee reviews and completes its current charge.

6:42 P.M. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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