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Present: Wayne R. Walker, Heather M. Billings, 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. She announced that the meeting was being recorded by Ashburnham Westminster Community Access TV.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board appoint Heather Billings as Chair, himself as Vice Chair and Wayne Walker as Clerk. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

APPROVED MINUTES/WARRANTS

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the minutes of April 28, 2014 as printed. The motion was seconded and passed with two in favor and one abstention (John Fairbanks).

Board members reviewed and approved the following warrants:

May 5, 2014	Payroll #65	\$ 160,812.80
	Accounts Payable #66	\$ 431,419.43
May 6, 2014	Deduction #65D	\$ 141,272.94
May 12, 2014	Accounts Payable #67	\$ 53,751.42

APPOINTMENT ~ CULTURAL COUNCIL

Mr. Walker moved that the Board appoint Leeann Lamsa to the Cultural Council. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT ~ EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Mr. Walker moved per the request of the Fire Chief, the Board appoint Clay Swenor to Emergency Management. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION ~ POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve a payroll authorization request for a Police Officer based on his contract. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PAYROLL SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION ~ TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Walker moved that the Board authorize the Town Administrator to sign off on contractually obligated and regularly scheduled increases in pay based on the Town’s salary structure. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION ~ CEMETERY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve a payroll authorization to hire a part time Cemetery employee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

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YEAR END TRANSFER REQUEST ~ FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Walker moved that the Board authorize a year-end transfer (for repairs to the pump on Engine 2) in the amount of \$7,074.35 to be transferred within the Fire Department budget, from Fire Department Head to Equipment Maintenance Other. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

REQUEST TO EXTEND ARTICLE

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the continuance of Article 31 of the May 7, 2011, Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$35,000 for the upgrade of the telephone system and services at the Public Safety Building and Town Hall. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

2014 CROCKER POND RULES AND REGULATIONS

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the 2014 Crocker Pond Rules and Regulations as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Walker suggested that the current prohibition of hunting and firearms (Section 104.2) in the Town By-laws be amended at the fall town meeting to include Crocker Pond.

ENGMAN CONSERVATION RESTRICTION AND PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT ~ Bragg Hill Road

Jay Rasku of Mount Grace Land Trust was in attendance.

Mr. Walker moved that the Board sign the Contract for the Purchase and Sale of Conservation Restrictions on land owned by Lenard E. Engman and Amy K. Engman in the amount of \$130,000, as presented by Mount Grace with an amended closing date of June 15, 2014. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Walker further moved that the Board authorize the acceptance of a Conservation Restriction pertinent to the land owned by Lenard E. Engman and Amy K. Engman, as presented to the Board this evening. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

INTERFUND BORROWING ~ ENGMAN CONSERVATION RESTRICTION

Treasurer/Collector Melody Gallant was on hand to request approval from the Board to authorize interfund borrowing for the purchase of the Bragg Hill Road Conservation Restriction (Engman Property) in the amount of \$119,725.

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the request as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

BARTHOLOMEW & COMPANY PRESENTATION RE OPEB TRUST

Chuck Patterson and Dory Huard of Bartholomew & Company were on hand to present potential funding options for the Town’s liability as it relates to other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB).

Treasurer/Collector Melody Gallant explained that OPEB is the Town’s responsibility to its employees when they retire.

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The Board agreed there would be many more discussions regarding the subject and suggested that an Actuary Study Group be formed and meet with the Board at a future meeting to discuss the Actuary Study.

TREASURER/COLLECTOR UPDATED INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT

The Board requested that the Treasurer/Collector provide information on the proposed changes to the Investment Policy. In the meantime the Board agreed to table the request until their next meeting.

7:52 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Walker moved that the Board enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation; further that the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigating positions of the body; and that the Board will reconvene in open session only for the purpose of convening in a second executive session. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

8:10 P.M. RECONVENE

Mr. Walker moved that the Board enter into executive session to discuss strategy for negotiations with non-union personnel; further that the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigating positions of the body; and that the Board will adjourn directly from executive session. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned from executive session at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne R. Walker
Clerk
(Prepared by B. Kazan)