

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

CALL TO ORDER

J. Fairbanks called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in room 205 of the Town Hall. He announced that the meeting was being recorded by Ashburnham/Westminster Community Access TV.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Fairbanks stated that a special election has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Westminster Elementary School. There will be one question on the ballot, asking voters whether or not they approve a debt exclusion to borrow \$2.5 million for the Whitman River Sewer System Improvements Project.

MART Bus service will begin in Westminster on Tuesday, October 13, 2015. Information will be available at Town Hall, the Public Safety Building, Library and Senior Center, as well as the town website and www.mrta.us

The Board is accepting letters of interest to fill nine positions on the Town Government Study Committee, five of these positions are for citizens at large and four for elected or appointed town officials. Anyone interested is asked to contact Karen Murphy, Town Administrator.

APPROVALS

MINUTES

W. Walker made a motion to approve the minutes of September 28th and 29th 2015. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

WARRANTS

W. Walker made a motion to approve the following warrants.

September 30, 2015	Accounts Payable 16-14A	\$951,997.51
	Payroll 16-14B	\$187,865.77

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

YANKEE STREET FAIR DONATION

Steve Hemman was present at this evening's meeting to donate three portable GPS units to the Police and Fire Station, provided by proceeds raised at the Annual Yankee Street Fair.

W. Walker made a motion for the town to accept the donation of three portable GPS units. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The Board thanked Mr. Hemman and the Congregational Church for their generous donation to the town.

HEARINGS/OTHER SCHEDULED MATTERS

CHIEF NIVALA – REQUEST FOR TWO ADDITIONAL PERMANENT FULL TIME POSITIONS

Chief Nivala was present to discuss the addition of two permanent full time firefighter positions for the Fire Department. He indicated that it is becoming difficult to cover shifts held by per diem employees.

Chief Nivala indicated that with the Selectmen's permission, he would bring this to the Personnel Board and the Advisory Board for their recommendation prior to seeking the approval from the Selectmen.

The Board agreed to recommend that Chief Nivala bring these positions to the Personnel and Advisory Board..

ORDER TO DEMOLISH AND SECURE PROPERTY AT 191 SOUTH ASHBURNHAM ROAD

Christian Dellogono, owner of the property located at 191 South Ashburnham Road, was present at this evening's meeting.

The Board discussed the ongoing situation with Mr. Dellogono, who then explained all of the steps he has taken to this point to prepare the structure for demolition. He indicated that he had been actively working with the Conservation Commission to move this project forward and will be ready to proceed following his meeting with the Commission on October 22, 2015.

W. Walker moved to continue the hearing on Monday October 19, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS ITEMS

K. Murphy indicated that the Maintenance Supervisor has prepared a list of surplus items for disposal. All town employees and departments have been made aware of their availability.

W. Walker made a motion to declare items listed as surplus, and to auction them off based on town policy. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

FY2017 BUDGET CALL LETTER

The Selectmen as well as members of the Capital Planning Committee and Advisory Board discussed the FY2017 Budget Call Letter.

The Board requested that the Capital Planning Committee send out copies of the Capital Plan as it relates to each department.

The Board members agreed that the letter would be revised by Karen Murphy and sent to the chair of the Selectmen and Advisory Board for review.

SET SELECTMEN'S MEETING SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY – APRIL 2016

J. Fairbanks presented the following schedule for the Selectmen for January to April 2016:

January 11th and 25th

February 8th and 22nd

March 7th and 21st

April 4th, 11th and 25th

It was the consensus of the Board to post the meeting schedule as presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

W. Walker moved that the board enter Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and that the chairman declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the town's bargaining or litigating position. H. Billings seconded the motion. Mr. Walker indicated that the meeting would adjourn directly following Executive Session. The motion was passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned directly from executive session at 7:00 p.m.

Heather M. Billings

Clerk

(Prepared by S. Lahtinen)