

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 the DPW would like to remind residents who access the Solid Waste Drop Off Center that when they replace a windshield or purchase a new vehicle, they should remove the tag/sticker from the windshield and return it to the DPW for replacement. Additionally they are requesting that anyone who moves out of Town return their sticker to the DPW. The Public Works can be reached at 978-874-5572.

APPROVALS

MINUTES

W. Walker made a motion to approve the minutes of July 20th and August 3, 2015, with one correction to a typo in the July 20th minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

WARRANTS

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

Accounts Payable 16-06A	\$21,016.11
Payroll 16-06B	\$183,552.08
Deduction 16-06C	\$162,806.53
Accounts Payable 16-07A	\$110,334.57
Accounts Payable 16-08A	\$949,994.44
Payroll 16-08B	\$182,319.97

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS – ZBA DESIGNATION

W. Walker made a motion to designate Aime Denault as a regular member of the Zoning Board and to confirm the appointment of Peter Romano as an Associate Member. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

REQUEST TO CONDUCT TOUR OF SENIOR CENTER

Laila Michaud requested permission from the Board of Selectmen to conduct a tour of the Westminster Senior/Community Center on Saturday October 3rd from 12:00-1:00 p.m. prior to the Oakmont Class of 1963 Reunion. She indicated that Sue Fisher, COA Director would be present at the tour to open and close the building.

H. Billings made a motion to permit Laila Michaud to conduct a tour of the Westminster Community/Senior Center on Saturday October 3rd. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

SET DATES FOR COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER OPEN HOUSE

H. Billings made a motion to approve the following dates for events at the Community Senior Center:

Saturday September 12th 11:00a-2:00pm, Open House

Thursday September 17th 11:00am-1:00pm, Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION – FIRE DEPARTMENT

W. Walker made a motion to approve the appointment of Bennet Chadbourne as a full time firefighter. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

HEARINGS/OTHER SCHEDULED MATTERS

DPW COMMISSION:

BATHRICK ROAD UPDATE

Josh Hall, DPW Director, provided the Board of Selectmen with the consultant's evaluation and report for Bathrick Road at this evenings meeting. The report offered recommendations for adding gravel, crowning the roadway, creating water runs and otherwise improving the drainage.

The Board and DPW Commission discussed how much of this recommended work is already planned to be performed this fall. J. Hall indicated that they can start addressing the tasks however will not be able to implement any of the storm water control measures as those projects will require cost estimates and engineering.

SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

The DPW Commission was present at this evenings meeting, they presented the informational presentation on the Sewer Improvement Project to the Board.

The Board discussed the potential improvements to be made and it was also noted that the USDA grant amount for this project would come in at 18.8% of the total cost. The Board and DPW Commission made clarifying edits to the presentation to prepare it for the Special Town Meeting.

J. Fairbanks briefly suspended the Board meeting in order for the Capital Planning Committee to vote on its recommendation for Town Meeting on the Sewer Improvement article.

NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW COST-OUT STUDY PROPOSALS FOR OLD TOWN HALL OPTIONS

Steve Wallace, Town Planner indicated that he received three proposals regarding the reuse of the Old Town Hall. S. Wallace stated that the lowest bid received was from Agricola Corporation for \$9,500; he will be bringing this item for approval at the November Special Town Meeting. Agricola Corporation will provide the town actual cost amounts regarding the proposed options of use for the Old Town Hall.

S. Wallace also mentioned that he was holding a public forum on Saturday October 17th at 9:00am at the Forbush Library in order to hear from potential user groups that would be interested in utilizing the Town Hall as a community building.

ONGOING BUSINESS

ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NET METERING AGREEMENT

Doug Hurley indicated that he been in contact with two of the solar developers that are looking to contract net metering credits with Westminster. He stated that each of the solar developers would be able to guarantee their original pricing if the Town was to enter into an agreement on October 1st, however they could not guarantee the rates beyond that point.

Based on the information provided by D. Hurley, the Board agreed to include the Net Metering Credits article be placed on the warrant for the September 29th Special Town Meeting.

UPDATE ON PROPOSED EXPANSION OF MART SERVICES

H. Billings stated that she had attended the MART Advisory Board meeting on August 11th. At this meeting she learned more information regarding the MART services available to Westminster. Based on this information and that presented at the last BOS meeting, H. Billings indicated that she would like to move forward and request the service.

H. Billings made a motion to write a letter to MART requesting to begin servicing the Westminster area with a Fixed Bus Route, and that the Board will reevaluate the service in 60 days to determine if any changes are needed. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

The Board discussed the different options for committee membership.

J. Fairbanks indicated that he would seek the input from the head of the Hubbardston Charter Committee and report his findings back to the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

W. Walker moved that the board enter Executive Session at 7:41 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining. 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 8:10 p.m.



Heather M. Billings
Clerk
(Prepared by S. Lahtinen)