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

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Billings 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.

APPROVED WARRANTS/MINUTES

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the minutes of December 22, 2014 as printed. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Board members reviewed and approved the following warrants:

December 29, 2014	Accounts Payable #28A	\$ 228,815.66
	Payroll #28B	\$ 165,076.16
	Deduction #29C	\$ 154,624.18
December 31, 2014	Deduction #28C	\$ 817.67
January 5, 2015	Accounts Payable 29A	\$ 946,958.74

APPROVE 2015 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the 2015 Holiday schedule as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

2015 LICENSE RENEWAL – WESTMINSTER CAFÉ

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the 2015 Common Victualer license for Westminster Café. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

REVIEW PROPOSED HEALTH INSURANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Ms. Billings explained that the Board of Selectmen are authorized under Chapter 32B to adopt rules and regulations related to the health insurance benefits offered to employees by the Town. Personnel Administrator Julie Belliveau and the Town Administrator have developed a draft set of regulations, which have been reviewed by the Personnel Board and Counsel. The Town Administrator is planning to forward the draft to department heads for their review and comment, and then return them to the Board for a second look and final approval.

The Board agreed to strongly consider adding a section for new employees which would reflect a contribution rate of 70%/30% split for health benefits. In the meantime, Mrs. Murphy would include this proposal when sending out the rules and regulations to the department heads.

JOE SERIO – PROPOSED CRACKER FESTIVAL

Joe Serio was on hand to meet with the Board to share his ideas for a Westminster Cracker Factory Festival. He explained that this would be Westminster’s first fall festival to be held on October 23rd and 24th. The festivities would start on Friday the 23rd at Academy Hill with a Farmers Market, Colonial cooking and games with period dress. The day would close with a Founders Feast in an area church kitchen at sundown. On Saturday the 24th there would be a 5K race called the Cracker 5K with a finish

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on Main Street back to the Factory. Arts and craft vendors, food vendors, activities for the kids, bands and beer garden located next to existing restaurants establishments. This date will coincide with the high volume of traffic that heads west for fall foliage and particularly the large volume of traffic that visits Wachusett Mountain and culminates with the Center being dressed in the glory of Harvest decorations for the 1,000's of Trick or Treaters to enjoy the week after on Halloween.

Also, one of the main draws will be an invitation to visit Main Street for the month leading up to the celebration starting September 15th with the creation of Scarecrow Village featuring Scarecrows and Pumpkin people decorating the length of Main Street by businesses and Civic organizations and residents in a prize contest for best theme and design. Sponsored decorative banners will be hung from the telephones poles on Main Street and a large banner sign at the entrance of Main Street (below the Welcome to Westminster sign).

Mr. Serio explained that his group has two more meetings to discuss the feasibility of each event and to have a more finalized plan.

The Board asked that they meet again once the plans have been finalized.

FEE INCREASE

The Board agreed to add an agenda item to their January 26th meeting regarding the safety inspection fee increase by the Building Department.

ADVISORY BOARD VACANCY

Ms. Billings mentioned that the Board has received a letter of resignation from Advisory Board member Brian Ruland. She asked that anyone who is interested in filling this vacancy contact Town Moderator John Bowen.

6:46 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Walker moved that the Board enter into executive session per MGL Ch. 30A, s.21 (1) to discuss a complaint brought against a public officer; and that the Board 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 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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