



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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**Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby
Board of Selectmen**

Minutes of February 10th, 2014

Board Members Present: Nathaniel Yohalem, Chairman
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby

Others Present: Michael Skorput, Administrative Assistant
Jessica Bosworth, Administrative Secretary

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 5:23 pm.

Martha Bryan – Land Trust Sale

Martha Bryan, as Director of the Land Trust, joined the Board to voice concerns about the cost of the Hadsell Street parcel that the Trust is negotiating to purchase. Ms. Bryan suggested an alternate scenario to the original plan, where Gretchen Long would purchase the entire 8.1 acre property for the total amount of back taxes due to the Town and give the subdivided [2.01 acre] parcel to the Land Trust. It was suggested that the Town would benefit from the later plan due to the whole property being placed back on the tax rolls, including the adjoining Joffe property. Discussion of the legality of removing the property from auction and the 7% [of the selling price] fee owed to the Auctioneers followed. The Board requested a written proposal from the Land Trust outlining the proposal.

The Board read the minutes of January 28th, 2014. **A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the minutes of January 28th, 2014.**

Police Chief – Flaggers Policy

Police Chief, Scott Farrell, informed the Board that the Flaggers Guideline is designed mainly for State road jobs. Typically a third-party Contractor consults with the Town's Police Chief, who then assigns officers for detail at the site. Separately, the Highway Department, when working on roads, determines their own traffic control. The Chairman asked for the Highway Superintendent and Tree Warden to be invited to a future meeting to discuss their policies.

Announcements and Updates

It was noted that no new budgets were available for review.

Chairman Yohalem had spoken with Clerk of the Works, John Lander, about the details of obtaining his own liability insurance. Mr. Lander has been in contact with Colt Insurance Agency and Jessica Bosworth will be following up.

The Chairman offered a summary of the meeting with the Treasurer, Accountant, Assessor and Tax Collector to set a schedule for preparing the tax rates. He announced the dates as follows: September 30th, books will be closed; October 31st, final figures deadline; November 15th, Assessor will complete work with the State and the tax rate will be set; December 1st, technical work to convert files will be completed; December 5th-12th, tax bills will be sent. Without prior permission, no vacations will be permitted during this time. In the case of illness, the Town Clerk will stand in for the Tax Collector, the Accountant will back the Treasurer, and Mike Britton will come in for the Assessor.

The Board revisited the contract for Highway Superintendent, Charles Loring, to determine if he should receive an extra week of vacation as outlined.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to grant the additional week of vacation to the Highway Superintendent.

School Committee Representatives

School Committee Representatives, Kenzie Fields and Kristen Sparhawk were invited by the Board to exchange thoughts and information with one another. First, the Chairman commented that the budget was at the forefront of concern. Discussion continued on the matter and also included the pre-K program and out-of-district student tuition. The Committee would like to see the pre-K program become a free option to all children of that age group.

An overview of the Food Service program was additionally provided. A redistribution of funding has taken place and ideas about incorporating local foods are being considered.

The Board recommended that these meetings take place every fall, winter and spring. The School Representatives were in agreement and suggested that the Board speak with Kristen Sanzone, President of the PTA to discuss ways in which the Town can help the school programs.

Announcements and Updates

Chairman Yohalem proposed that the review for the Highway Superintendent be scheduled for the meeting of March 3rd depending on the size of the agenda. The Special Permit hearing for David Ralph is also scheduled on that date.

Selectman Shalaby noted that the Cultural Council will be present at the March 10th meeting to present the Grant Awards.

The Board reassessed the budgets that had been held at the January 28th meeting. The NM Rescue Expense budget increased from \$26,500 to \$46,300. ComStar will provide \$35,850 and the Fireman's stipend will be reduced by \$10,500.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the budget for the NM Rescue Expense.

The Town Garage Maintenance budget increased by \$2,000.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the budget for Town Garage Maintenance.

The Machinery Expense budget increased by \$5,000 which would prevent the funds from being transferred from the Reserve Fund. The Board agreed to keep it on hold until more information can be provided by the Highway Superintendent.

There was a brief intermission, suggested by Chairman Yohalem.

School Superintendent, School Finance Committee and Town Finance Committee

Attendees of the session began by introducing themselves. Vito Valentini, Chair of the School Finance and Buildings and Grounds Committees, Dave Hastings, School Superintendent, and the Town's Finance Committee members were present. Discourse began with the proposed Capital Budget for FY15. The community schools [New Marlborough and Egremont] were listed as being budgeted \$30,000 with \$20,000 of the funds allocated to the repairs and updates of the kitchen in New Marlborough, which is below standards for food prep. Consequently, all meals are being made at the Sheffield school kitchen and delivered daily. The community schools funding outlined in the budget would contribute to repairs of the outside of the New Marlborough building as well, and a replacement carpet for Egremont at the cost of \$2,800. The issue of a new boiler for New Marlborough was also voiced. There was no plan for the Monterey school with respect to repairs or upgrades unless absolutely needed.

Mr. Valentini updated the group on the Transportation Subcommittee's solution to saving money on running school buses for after-school programs and field trips. The school purchased two white multi-functional buses that are limited to 14 passengers and can be operated by anyone with a driver's license.

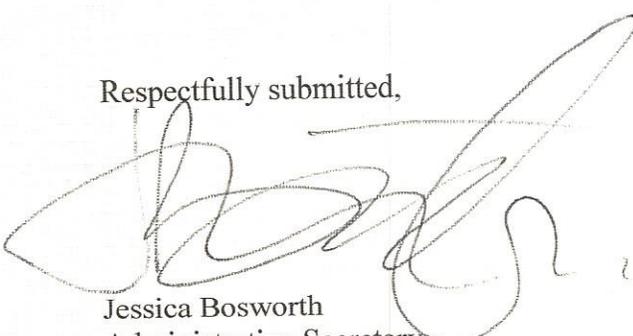
Various other items on the total budget proposal were discussed, that included Administration, Teachers, Materials and Equipment, Pupil Services, Insurance and Tuition. The total proposal amounted to roughly \$400,000.

Chairman Yohalem raised two concerns in regards to the total budget proposal. First, the Town would like to see its contribution to the school district closer to 2 ½ percent. Secondly, the recommendation of closing the Egremont and Monterey schools which would save over \$225,000 in the school budget and \$55,000 for the Town.

Chairman Yohalem thanked Mr. Hastings and Mr. Valentini for joining the meeting and expressed his hope to meet again with them every year. He also announced that an open budget hearing is scheduled for February 27th, followed by the adoption of the budget on March 13th.

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Jessica Bosworth
Administrative Secretary