



**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 January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

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

**Others Present:** Michael Skorput, Administrative Assistant

**The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 5:30 pm.**

**Prism Energy Services**

Mike Murdock from Prism Energy Services met with the Board to present the Energy Cost Savings Proposal for the New Marlborough Library based on an audit performed in December. The changes that were proposed consisted of replacing the current lighting to LED lights and low ballast factor fluorescents. The total estimated cost of the project would be \$3,800 with approximately \$1,300 to be covered by National Grid. The Town would be responsible for an estimated \$2,500 and could potentially save \$330 annually. Occupancy sensors (automatic lighting) would also be installed in the restrooms. Both the Board and Library Trustees were in favor of the proposal, but the issue of funding for the project was undetermined.

**A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to authorize the signing of the contract with Prism Energy Services for new lighting at the New Marlborough Library for the total cost of \$2,522.51 subject to a plan for funding, prepared by Tara White and Michael Skorput.**

**A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the minutes of January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**

## **Compensation of Highway Superintendent**

Highway Superintendent, Charles Loring joined the Board to discuss compensation for overtime hours worked on winter roads maintenance. A discussion ensued between Mr. Loring and Chairman Yohalem concerning the current yearly salary, as agreed to in the Superintendent's contract, and the salaries of his predecessors. It was finally decided on by the Board that further discussion on the matter would resume during Mr. Loring's next review in March.

## **Updates and Announcements**

Michael Skorput reported that the Attorneys of the Land Trust have been sent the contract for the sale of the property on Hadsell Street. The Board is waiting for a response.

Chairman Yohalem announced that the land auction contract for Sullivan & Sullivan was amended, signed and sent.

Chairman Yohalem also announced that the meeting that had been scheduled for earlier in the day regarding the setting of the tax rate schedule, was cancelled.

It was noted that the artificial traffic light hanging at the intersection in front of the Library still needs to be removed. Michael Skorput will contact the office of the individual to ask for it to be taken down.

Chairman Yohalem gave a summary of the conversation he had with Vito Valentini, Chairman of the Subcommittee of the School Committee, and reiterated his disappointment with the non-communication regarding the subject of capital needs for the four schools. The Board discussed the matter and also agreed that members of the School Committee should be invited to join a Selectmen's meeting.

It was noted that the new security system for Town Hall is in the process of being installed by Lee Audio 'N Security. The work will be finished tomorrow and the system operational.

Selectmen White talked about a Senior Scanning Program in which participants would scan paper documents from the various Town Hall departments, save them to a centralized computer and back them to thumb drives and/or the Cloud. Selectmen White and Prudence Spaulding, Director of Senior Services, will start the process of organizing the program in preparation for the Annual Town Meeting.

Chairman Yohalem announced that he was given a Road Flagger and Policy Detail Guideline, issued by MassDOT, from John Hotaling, present in the audience. A copy of the policy will also be given to Police Chief, Scott Farrell and a meeting to discuss it will be scheduled for the next Selectmen's meeting.

Prudence Spaulding, on behalf of the Finance Committee, asked if the Board would join a Committee meeting so that the Police, Highway, Fire and Ambulance Departments can present their budgets to both groups at one time.

## **Special Permit Hearing – David Ralph**

**A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to reopen the Special Permit Hearing for David Ralph at 6:35 pm.**

Attorney Jeffrey Lynch, representing David and Heather Ralph presented to the Board the mutual assents of abutters to the Ralphs' property and deed records of easement rights. The Wymans, present in the audience, did not sign the abutters list, but do not have any objections to the use of Old Hitchcock Road by the Ralphs as long as it is without liability. After a discussion it was agreed that the Board would forward a copy of the documents to Jeremiah Pollard, Town Counsel, for review and approval. It was also requested that Mr. Lynch write a letter of the legal rights of the Ralphs, as he believes them to be, to submit to Mr. Pollard. Once the Town receives a letter of approval from Mr. Pollard, the hearing would then be rescheduled.

**A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to recess the Special Permit Hearing. A roll call vote was called for Nathaniel Yohalem – yes, Michele Shalaby – yes, Tara White – yes.**

## **Budgets**

Tree Warden - \$1,000.00  
Tree Work - \$15,000.00  
Library Trustees - \$320.00  
Library Expenses - \$40,651.00  
Tax Collector Tax Title - \$3,000.00  
Tax Collector Expenses - \$5,500.00  
Tax Collector Computer Services - \$6,500.00  
Cemetery Expenses - \$2,700.00  
Community Health Program - \$1,000.00  
Veteran's District - \$5,813.00  
Berkshire County Communications - \$9,137.00  
Planning Board Expenses - \$873.00  
Planning Board Clerical - \$1,300.00  
Planning Board Grants - \$0.00  
Highway Front End Loader - \$18,951.00  
Town Hall Renovation Loans - \$29,042.00  
Ambulance Loan - \$28,165.00  
Town Hall Renovations - \$14,430.00  
Highway Truck Loan 2014 - \$26,170.00  
Highway Truck Loan 2013 - \$41,870.00  
Treasurer Tax Title Expenses - \$5,000.00  
Visiting Nurse Association - \$2,447.00  
Street Lights - \$4,500.00  
Building Inspector Expenses - \$2,617.00  
Treasurer Expenses - \$3,300.00  
Treasurer Software and Support - \$3,200.00

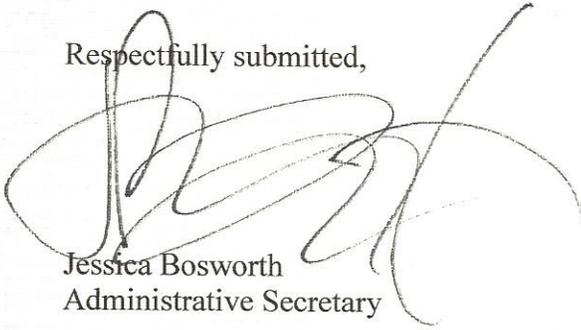
All budgets were previously approved by the Finance Committee, with half of the amounts consistent with last year's budgets.

**A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the Town budgets.**

Chairman Yohalem announced that there will be no meeting [unless something urgent arises] next Monday due to Martin Luther King Day. Furthermore, the Chairman is not available for the following Monday's meeting, so the next scheduled Selectmen's meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

**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 at 7:20 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jessica Bosworth  
Administrative Secretary