



**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 Selectmen's Meeting
April 14, 2014**

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

Others Present: Michael Skorput, Administrative Assistant
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:00 p.m.

The Board read the minutes. **After a discussion, a motion was made and seconded and so voted by all members to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2014 Selectmen's meeting. Because of Patriot's Day there will not be a meeting on Monday, April 21, 2014.**

Ed Harvey, Emergency Management Director – A discussion ensued regarding the \$4,000.00 salary for FY15. The question arose as to what the \$250.00 increase in the original budget represented. Mr. Harvey clarified that number stating that the \$250.00 would be used only for per diem purposes for the back-up director in case of an emergency if he was not available. **A motion was made and seconded and so voted by all members to approve a 2% salary increase for the Emergency Management Director bringing his salary to \$4080.00, and to include in the budget an additional \$250.00 to be used on an as-needed basis if the Emergency Management Director is not available, in which case an interim person would be paid from that account.**

School Boiler – Chairman Nathaniel Yohalem spoke with the Emergency Management Director Ed Harvey regarding the incident at the school regarding the CO-2 alarm being activated and the students being transferred to Sheffield on two consecutive days. Chairman Nathaniel Yohalem spoke with David Hastings regarding the boiler. Mr. Hastings stated the problem was not the boiler, but rather a problem with the fuel line. The Alert Now system was utilized at 10 a.m. Mr. Hastings stated that Town Hall was not notified of this problem but will be notified during any future emergencies. Mr. Harvey is working on a project to clarify who is to be alerted on specific emergency issues, so that emergencies can be handled in an expedient and efficient manner.

Memorial Day - David Hastings advised that he will be organizing Memorial Day events.

Trash Compactor – There is a grant available through the Department of Environmental Protection that could fund approximately \$30,000.00 for the compactor, \$7,500.00 for the pad and less than \$1,000.00 for electricity. Further information is available at various meetings throughout the State. The Town of New Marlborough will be represented at an April 30 meeting in Springfield, MA. to gather additional information. Applications must be submitted by June 11, 2014 and the award will be made in September 2014. Mr. Skorput stated that one of the things they were looking at for this grant was a closed container that goes on the compactor and could reduce the cost of the compactor.

Campbell Falls Bridge - Mr. Skorput will prepare a letter to the State requesting that it re-inspect and re-rate the bridge.

Department or Revenue and Audit – Mr. Skorput suggested that the audit be reviewed upon completion before a date is set with the DOR. Michele Shalaby spoke with Rick Kingsley at the DOR who advised her they no longer do the financial reviews as was seen on-line, but they do subsets of those reviews. A letter would have to be sent to the DOR requesting this review. A motion authorizing this review has already been passed by the Selectmen. Current scheduling with the DOR extends to the latter part of summer 2014.

Agricultural Commission – The Selectmen felt they did not have enough information on this article, and, in fact, would like to rescind it. This article requires more information and it was suggested that Counsel look at it to be sure there is nothing in there that would be detrimental to the town. **A motion was made and seconded and so voted by all members to revoke the adoption of the New Marlborough Agricultural Commission resolution from the April 7, 2014 Selectmen's Meeting.**

Transfer Station Rates - **A motion was made and seconded and so voted by all members to keep the rate for the Transfer Station at \$100.00, but increase the late fee to \$125.00.**

State Funds for Road Repair – According to Mr. Tom Loughlin (BSC), additional monies (up to \$30,000.00) may be available at the end of fiscal year FY14 for roads and bridge. Mr. Loughlin will work with the Highway Superintendent, Mr. Loring, to identify those roads/bridges that are a priority and then apply for that grant money.

Winter Roads - Chairman Nathaniel Yohalem stated that the Town was notified by MassDot that \$40 million was approved by the governor for a state-wide program to repair roads because of this past winter. Thirty million dollars (\$30 million) was designated for direct aid and our share of that is a one-time drawdown of \$51,673.00 for reimbursement of a specific-purpose road and road facilities.

Cemetery Plots – A letter was received from Judith Thompson regarding the lack of availability of cemetery plots. Chairman Nathaniel Yohalem called Ms. Thompson and explained to her that we would refer this letter to the Cemetery Commission. Ms. Thompson will be notified by the Cemetery Commission when and where this issue will be discussed.

Candidate's Meeting – A Candidate's Meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2014 at Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Congratulatory Letter – A letter was received from Michael Considine wishing to thank Fire Chief Chuck Loring for helping him obtain required permits to facilitate a real estate sale.

Chapter 90 - A letter was received from the Governor's Office certifying that the Town of New Marlborough's Chapter 90 apportionment for FY15 is \$344,489.00.

Auditor Engagement Letter - A letter was received from the auditor invoicing us for \$14,000.00. This is for year ending June 30, 2013.

MassDOT – MassDOT sent a letter to the Town of New Marlborough asking us to indicate whether or not we wanted sidewalks and bicycle lanes for the Hadsell Street Bridge. A letter was sent back to MassDOT declining their offer.

Budgets

Selectmen's Salary - A motion was made and seconded and so voted by all members to approve Selectmen's salaries at \$8550.00 for all three Selectmen.

New Marlborough Rescue Expenses – Although the account shows an increase of \$19,800.00, \$10,000.00 comes from the Firefighter's Stipend, which was reduced by the \$10,000.00.

Free Cash - The current balance in free cash is \$558,465. A discussion ensued regarding which items (Highway Truck for \$93,000.00, Fire Truck for \$550,000.00, Clayton Mill River Bridge for \$180,000.00) should be paid for out of Free Cash and which items the Town of New Marlborough should borrow. The following items were designated to be taken out of Free Cash:

Transfer Station:	\$ 10,000.00
Highway Truck	\$ 93,000.00
Stabilization	\$ 50,000.00
Town Hall Renovations	\$ 10,000.00
Insurance Trust Fund	\$ 3,500.00
Building Inspector Program	\$ <u>7,400.00</u>
Total	\$173,900.00

It is recommended that 5-15 per cent of the total budget be kept in Free Cash. The Town of New Marlborough would like to keep 10 per cent of the budget in Free Cash.

A discussion ensued recommending that the following items come out of Free Cash:

Highway Truck	\$ 93,000.00
Clayton Mill River Bridge	\$100,000.00 (\$80,000.00 will be borrowed)*
Town Hall Renovations	\$ 10,000.00
Transfer Station	\$ 10,000.00

It was also determined that the following items will require borrowing:

Fire Truck	\$550,000.00
Highway Truck	\$228,000.00
Clayton Mill River Bridge	\$ 80,000.00 (\$100,000.00 will come from Free Cash)*

*By taking \$100,000.00 out of free cash, it will reduce the amount of money to be borrowed. The cost for the Clayton Mill River Bridge totals \$180,000.00. The tax rate would then only go up to \$9.30 per thousand, thereby increasing the taxes on a \$300,000.00 home by approximately \$42.00 per year in fiscal year 2015.

A motion was made and seconded and so voted by all members to approve that \$100,000.00, out of the \$180,000.00 needed for the Clayton Mill River Bridge, be funded through Free Cash.

The Selectmen initially wanted to return \$.03 per thousand to the residents on their tax bill; however, on a \$300,000.00 home, that amount would only be \$42.00 per year. It was decided that instead of returning such a small amount to the homeowners, the money would be better spent on the needs and safety of the Town.

A motion was made and seconded and so voted by all members to approve that the following budget items be funded through Free Cash:

Town Hall Renovations	\$10,000.00
Transfer Station Renovations	\$10,000.00

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 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary