



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

**Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, September 8, 2014**

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

**Others Present:** Michael Skorput, Administrative Assistant  
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary  
Louise and Herb Eichstedt

**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 August 25 Selectmen's meeting with Pat Mielke and to approve the August 25 regular Selectmen's meeting, the August 29 meeting at the New Marlborough School, the August 29 meeting with Caren Adams and the September 2 Selectmen's meeting, as amended.**

**Eichstedts** – Louise stated that it was not until last week that she heard from the Town regarding her claim that the Town pay the \$2500 to remedy the damage on her property. Chairman White disclosed to Louise that a letter had been sent by the insurance company; however, it went to the wrong address. Louise Eichstedt expressed her disappointment that the letter that was sent to the Town attorney and to the insurance company did not state that there was more than one incident involving her property, that in fact, there were three separate incidents. Louise spoke with Andrea at MIIA and told her they did not have all the facts to resolve this claim. She was told that MIIA couldn't do anything more but that she should take it up with the Town. Louise further stated that Highway Superintendent, Chuck Loring, told her that it was a Town problem and that the Town would take care of it. Louise Eichstedt will draft a letter stating all the facts which will then be reviewed with Chuck Loring. Those facts will then be sent to the Town attorney and insurance company for reconsideration. Louise will have the opportunity to review the letter before it is sent to the attorney and insurance company. Selectman Yohalem stated that the Town was powerless to do anything about the claim under the previously-stated circumstances. Selectman Shalaby further stated that the Town cannot pay a private non-bidding contractor.

**Treasurer's Position** – The Town received a letter from Marilyn Scaglione reversing her resignation for the Treasurer's position. The Board voted to accept her resignation. A new ad has been placed in the newspapers for the Treasurer's position. Chairman White will advise Marilyn of the Board's decision.

**Signs on Town Owned Properties** – The Board will institute a policy allowing local campaign signs be erected on Town property but they cannot be put on the property prior to three weeks before the election, and must be removed within 48 hours of an election; tag signs primarily for weekends will also be permitted but must be removed within 48 hours of the sale. Other signs would require the consent of the Town. Any other signs erected, without the permission of the Board, will be removed by the Police Department. If possible those organizations/people will be advised their signs can be picked up at Town Hall. **After a discussion, a motion was made and seconded and so voted by all members to approve a resolution, allowing local election signs be erected three week prior to election, as well as tag/estate sale signs, all of which must be removed 48 hours after the event, and to not allow commercial signs be erected on Town properties. This resolution was adopted September 8, 2014.**

**Tax Collector's Hours** – At the beginning of summer, the Tax Collector normally changes her hours to accommodate her and her daughter, and then goes back to her regular hours after summer. However, because of a change in her daughter's school and her bus route, she wanted to change her hours to 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The Board, however, required her to work 27.5 hours a week. She would be permitted to work additional hours if she still needed Wednesdays off. The Tax Collector submitted her revised hours to the Board, i.e. Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She also has requested her salary be increased 15 per cent to accommodate the "extra" hours she feels she'll be working. In view of the fact that the Town has approved her salary for this year, any increase will have to be brought before the Town in the May 2015 Town meeting. **A motion was made and seconded and so voted by all members to accept the hours of Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. per the Tax Collector's memo of September 8, 2014, however without additional compensation.**

**Town Renovations** - Michael Skorput is sending out a bid package and is also speaking with EDM to rework their estimate. The Board would like to see the revised estimate from EDM before the bid package is released.

**Transfer Station Shed** - Michael Skorput will contact Joe Wilkinson and the electrical contractor to be sure the pad is large enough to accommodate a shed. Per Chairman White, she met with Dan Litchfield who felt that one meter would be sufficient for the Transfer Station, and that would include the new single-stream compactor.

**Clayton Mill River Bridge** – Selectman Shalaby felt that it was perhaps a foregone conclusion that this bridge will have to be constructed as a Category 2 project, but that nothing had been received confirming this decision. Stantec is investigating whether this is a Category 1 or 2. It was Chairman White's understanding that the EPA met with Jeff Collingswood who was advised this was being moved from the Category 1 to a Category 2.

**Tax Assessor's Issues** – Marsha Pshenishny reported that the Joffe property would not come back on the tax roles until January 2015 and the Hadsell Street property is still on the tax roles.

**Highway Superintendent's Agreement** – has not been signed. Chuck sent in some modifications. He will speak with the Board of Selectmen on Monday, September 15 at 5:30 p.m.

to further discuss this agreement. Chuck stated that he does not require insurance from the Town and perhaps those funds could be used to increase his salary. The Board stated this was not possible to do. His current salary is \$62,500.

**Fire Chief Agreement** – Dates will be changed and the agreement will be ready for signature on Monday, September 15, 2015.

**Police Chief Contract** – Selectman Yohalem presented several contracts from other Towns. The contract from West Stockbridge was the most appropriate for the Town. Selectman Yohalem has marked up that contract which will be retyped.

**School Meeting** – Chairman White reported the Selectmen met with Dave Hastings regarding the outlying schools and presented the case for New Marlborough Central School remaining open. Two more meetings are scheduled – one with Egremont and one with Alford.

**Police Chief Frank** – would like to meet with the Selectboard once a month.

**Halloween** – Selectman Shalaby reported that she spoke with Police Chief Frank, who agreed, that a Police Officer should be on the ground for two hours total in Mill River and then Southfield on Halloween night. The Officer with the cruiser would be present, but would have to leave if there were a call needed to be answered. There will be a Halloween party at the church for which a Police Officer should be present. The Town Hall will be open to Trick or Treaters

**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 7:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck  
Administrative Secretary