



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
807 Mill River Southfield Road, Mill River, MA 01244-0099
Phone: 413-229-8116 Fax: 413-229-6674 E-mail: nmbdselectmen@aol.com**

**Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby
Board of Selectmen**

Minutes of March 10, 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 5:24 pm.

The Board read the minutes of March 3, 2014. **After a discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the minutes of March 3, 2014 as amended.**

It was noted that John Lander, Clerk of the Works for the Foley Bridge project, will be hired as a special employee and will be covered under the Town's insurance.

After a discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to hire John Lander as a special employee of the Town.

Budgets

Conservation Commission Expenses - \$2,000
Finance Committee Expenses - \$500
Zoning Board of Appeals Expenses - \$600
Memorial Day - \$900
911 Coordinator Expenses - \$500
Household Hazardous Waste - \$1,279
Board of Health Salaries - \$1,250
Board of Health Clerical - \$5,000
Interest Expense - \$5,000
Banking Services - \$200
Berkshire County Retirement - \$100,953
Medicare - \$11,425
Village Association - \$3,108

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the budgets for Conservation Commission Expenses, Finance Committee Expenses, Zoning Board of Appeals Expenses, Memorial Day, 911 Coordinator Expenses, Household Hazardous Waste, Board of Health Salaries, Board of Health Clerical, Interest Expense, Banking Services, Berkshire County Retirement, Medicare and Village Association.

Board of Health Expenses - \$2,500

After a discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the budget for Board of Health Expenses.

Chairman Yohalem read aloud a list of budgets that have not yet been received by the Finance Committee, all of which will be ready for the next Committee meeting on Thursday. The final budget submission deadline to be made to the Board is next Monday, March 17.

The Board also discussed the projected percentages of salary raises that will be given to the department heads this fiscal year. Two out of three Selectmen agreed on a 2% projected increase.

Meeting with Fire Department, Fire Company, Police Department, Emergency Services Fund and Emergency Management to Discuss Old Fire Company Garage

In attendance at the meeting were Ned Odegaard, President of the Emergency Services Fund, Dave Smith, President of the Fire Company and Scott Farrell, Police Chief.

Mr. Smith began the conversation with the current alternatives that are being discussed for the old fire station; whether it will be completely or partially rehabbed for office, storage and garaging spaces and which departments will use it.

Mr. Odegaard offered some background on behalf of the Emergency Services Fund (ESF), which is the legal guarantor of the mortgage on the fire house. The ESF has a history of asking residents for contributions which pay the mortgage, and currently cover the payments. However, the interest rate is subject to increase within five years based on the market fluctuations. There are questions as to where the funding would come from to rehab the old fire house, given the circumstances around future funding for the current fire house. Mr. Odegaard recommended that all people responsible for each of the Emergency Services talk about the facility requirements for the foreseeable future. All parties were in agreement that all Emergency Services be in one location.

There was further discussion on the financial aspects of the buildings; insurance on the fire house, vehicles and equipment are covered by the Town through MIIA.

Chairman Yohalem proposed that the Town help in refinancing by floating a \$1.5 million bond which would also be used to cover some of the capital needs of the Town.

In closing, Chairman Yohalem suggested that the departments sit down to determine the needs and costs of having the Emergency Services in one location, and to meet again with the Board after preliminary plans are agreed upon.

It was noted that David Ralph does not need the approval of the Police Chief on the condition of Old Hitchcock Road; the approval of the Highway Superintendent is sufficient.

It was also noted that the artificial traffic light is still hanging in Town, despite the person responsible being asked to remove it.

The lease agreement from the Fire Company to the Police Department will be reviewed by the Board. Further discussion on the matter was deferred until next week's meeting.

There was a brief intermission at the request of the members of the Board.

Cultural Council Awards

Michele Shalaby, as Chair of the Cultural Council, presented the grant awards and thanked the grantees that were present, any residents present, and the Board of Selectmen.

New Marlborough Central School – music program for the grade 3 history curriculum at New Marlborough Central (NMC) and Undermountain Elementary (UME) - \$250

Berkshire Pulse – social studies and language arts curriculum for 3-4 grades at NMC and grade 6 at UME - \$300

Flying Cloud Institute – the Youth Environmental Summit - \$200; workshops for NMC and UME, kindergarten field trip, after-school program at NMC, NMC grades 3-4 ceramics residency, and student production - \$2,250; scholarship fund - \$1,000

Berkshire Playwrights Lab – development of new plays including tutorial with directors and rehearsal process - \$250

Preservation of Historic Church Records – two volumes of handwritten records of New Marlborough's First Parish and South Parish will be digitized and microfilmed - \$800

New Marlborough Friends of the Library – the library's summer reading club - \$450

New Marlborough Village Association, Music & More – support for a variety of programs in its 23rd season - \$3,000

Berkshire Children's Chorus – scholarship fund - \$250

Music in Common – for high school students to write, record, make a music video for, and perform an original song with industry professionals; then to produce a free community concert with other local musicians - \$500

Music in Common Youth Concert Series – monthly series featuring two Berkshire bands or musical acts by high school or younger students - \$250

Berkshire Songwriters in the Round – monthly concert series featuring 3-4 Berkshire singer-songwriters per month - \$300

Plymouth Plantation Field Trip – program for the grade 3 UME humanities curriculum to visit Plymouth Plantation - \$350

Greenagers – program for Southern Berkshire County young people to volunteer to work on local trails, farms and conservation lands - \$150

New Marlborough Land Trust – students of NMC will be guided through the nature trail at the Robert Joffe Nature Sanctuary - \$750

Announcements and Updates

Tom Eichstedt had concerns about the 45 minutes it took for a 911 call to be answered. The Board responded that the town does not have 24 hours emergency response time. The Board will review this issue with the Police Chief.

A discussion was held regarding assessing the condition of the fire trucks. Robert McDermott will call to set an appointment with the fire chief to discuss this issue. **A motion was made, seconded and approved by all members to hire him at \$50/hour, but not to exceed \$1000.**

Jessica will stay on until June 30 as Assistant Treasurer.

The Board discussed interviewing for a secretary. Chairman Yohalem does not want to wait to re-advertise. The Board will reconvene the meeting on Wednesday, March 12.

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 8:12 pm.

The Wednesday, March 12 meeting reconvened at 10:10 am. The Board unanimously voted to hire Sharon Fleck. An offer was made and accepted by Sharon Fleck to commence working on Thursday, March 13 and Friday, March 14 with Jessica at a salary of \$25,500 a year. Two reviews on June 15 and October 15, when the position will become full time were explained to Sharon. And we all wish Jessica the best of luck in her new position.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Bosworth
Administrative Secretary