



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

**Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, December 7, 2015
6 p.m.**

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

Others Present: Mari Enoch, Town Administrator
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary
Tom Stalker
Richard Long

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:03 p.m. The minutes were read. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of October 22, 2015 meeting; approve the minutes of the November 9 and November 16 meetings as amended; and hold the minutes of the November 23, 2015 meeting.

School Assessment Meeting

Both Michele Shalaby and Nat Yohalem attended the SBRSD Finance Sub-Committee Meeting on December 1 and 2. Sheffield was not in attendance. The Memorandum of Understanding was not acceptable to the Finance Sub-Committee as it felt it was an illegal document; however, a series of motions could be more acceptable to resolving the assessment issue and meeting the vital aspects of the MOU that are most important to Sheffield. The Finance Sub-Committee will make such motions at the School Committee meeting on Thursday, December 9.

Shared Services

Nat Yohalem attended a Shared Services Meeting on December 1, which Monterey and Sheffield also attended. Nat clarified the question regarding New Marlborough's roller after a discussion with Highway Superintendent, Charles Loring, i.e. the roller does not work on paved roads. Monterey's only interest is in sharing the cost of a hot box. The Town will continue to explore the option of a shared hot box.

The discussion continued regarding sharing Board of Health and Conservation Committee expertise. The Town will continue to explore these possibilities. It was clarified that New Marlborough's desire is to have a Conservation technical specialist on staff.

Senior Services – Sheffield is inviting seniors from neighboring towns to use their Senior Center. Sheffield also stated there is a van that can be used to transport seniors to the Center.

Ambulances – Both Monterey and Sheffield use the Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad ambulance services based in Great Barrington; only New Marlborough has its own ambulance. Given the increasing difficulty to man the New Marlborough ambulance, Nat Yohalem will get together with Chuck Loring to discuss possible shared services.

Rt. 57

Selectman Tara White attended a meeting in Tolland with four other towns to discuss the future of Rt. 57. Matt, from Granville, will write a letter outlining several options in which the State can take responsibilities for Rt. 57 including maintenance and permitting.

A draft of this letter will be presented at the January 20, 2016 meeting in Tolland. Representative from both districts will be invited to attend this meeting. However, it will be stressed that no Chapter 90 monies be reduced.

Treasurer Staffing

Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, advised she has received a written quote from Baystate Municipal Accounting Group for \$11,000. The firm will perform all Treasurer duties from December 14, 2015-July 31, 2016, except for weekly payroll, weekly receipts, tax title and personnel, all of which will be done by Town Hall staff. This fee would also cover training a new Treasurer. There is \$9700 in the Treasurer's salary that can be applied against the \$11,000. Nat Yohalem requested the contract reflect any on-site and off-site charges.

Town Administrator Updates

Broadband - Tom Stalker reported to the Board that a number of towns are investigating alternate hybrid fiber systems, a lower cost solution to an all fiber system. Questions arose as to whether or not a hybrid system would meet MBI criteria for grant money. Both Middlefield and Royleston will build a hybrid system, and will gradually upgrade toward building an all-fiber system. In the meantime a hybrid system can be installed faster and at a lower cost. Tom also reported that MBI may have to take a more flexible view on the June 30 deadline to commit to this project and receive funding. Michele Shalaby has drafted a letter to be sent to MBI requesting continued guidance in participating in a regional network.

Selectmen's Updates

Nat Yohalem reported that Tim Newman has requested to be put on the agenda to discuss the status of Broadband. He will be put on the January 4, 2016, agenda.

A letter was received from the Cultural Council requesting that a letter be sent to Susan Kane terminating her appointment.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to send a letter to Susan Kane terminating her appointment to the Cultural Council (Michele Shalaby recused herself from this vote)..

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 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary