



**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, April 27, 2015
6:04 p.m.**

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

Others Present: Joseph Kellogg, Administrative Assistant
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary
Tim Newman

The minutes of the joint meeting held on Thursday, April 9 as well as the Selectmen's Meeting held Monday, April 13, 2015 are being held until Monday, May 4, 2015.

Accident Insurance Policy for Police and Fire Departments – A motion was made, seconded and so voted to authorize Joe Kellogg to implement the insurance policy totaling \$19,290.

Signage – Tim Newman had asked about putting “Wired West” signs on Town property. Joe Kellogg advised that it is illegal (Mass. Law) for political signs, including ballot questions, to be put on Town property. This necessitated the need to change the Town Policy on Signage, dated September 8, 2014, to not allow political signs on Town property. However, someone wishing to stand outside the border and hold a sign is permitted. A discussion ensued regarding the danger that signs on Town triangles obstruct the vision of drivers. Although the Wired West sign only advocated signing up for the program, Tim withdrew his request to put the signs on Town property. **A motion was made, seconded and so voted to remove the first paragraph of the Town Policy on Signs.**

Wired West – Tim Newman expressed his desire to have the Board of Selectmen endorse Wired West. Select Chair, Tara White, responded by saying she felt the Board did not have enough information about the project to endorse it. She further stated that the Town has until

June 30, 2016 in which to answer questions before a vote is required by the residents. Tim then stated he would like the Board of Selectmen to acknowledge the fact that the Town of New Marlborough needs fiber-optics, and that it isn't just about the funds required to support this project. Michele Shalaby explained that, as Selectmen, they have to look at this project differently for the benefit of the Town. Tara White responded by saying "as a group, we believe this is an important issue and that we will look into all the means as we go along, and we've got months to do this, how we can put it into the Town plan with the roads and the bridges and the buildings and all the other stuff we have to do and see where that plan lays out and work from there." Tim acknowledged that Tara's statement is exactly what he was looking for from the Town, and that he is trying to get private citizens to do what they can to help financially. He's been talking with the Taconic Foundation, Bond Counsel and has had conversations with Clark Rowell regarding this proposal. Clark would like to meet with Joe Kellogg, the Town Treasurer and at least one Selectman. Tim also volunteered his services in working with the Town to evaluate other fiber-optic providers.

MIIA Renewal – Joe Kellogg reported that the MIIA general insurance went down 18.6%, even though his initial information indicated he should raise the rate. The insurance went down primarily due to a reduction in Workman's Compensation. This will result in a surplus in the budgeted amount. **A motion was made, seconded and so voted to have Joe Kellogg renew the Town's contract with MIIA.**

Administrative Structure – A total of eight resumes had been received for the Town Administrator's position. The Board decided it would like to interview the applicant marked "No.8." Further discussions will take place on Thursday, April 30, 2015.

Administrative Assistant Updates - A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 30 with Barry Shapiro to discuss the items for Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 4, 2015. Joe Kellogg prepared a tentative schedule for the Selectmen to present the Articles.

Selectmen's Updates – Select Chair, Tara White, brought forward the need to set a rate for the Planning Board temporary clerical position that has been offered to Teena Parton. The Planning Board suggested an hourly rate of \$12.50-\$15.00 per hour. **A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve \$13.75 per hour.**

Ryan Chamberland Letter - Chairman White has prepared a letter to be sent to Ryan Chamberland, who is with the Office of the Governor and attended a Selectmen's meeting in Great Barrington. There was a Q&A at the meeting, where many questions revolved around roads, bridges and State funding money. One of the comments made at the meeting was that the small towns in Western Massachusetts be considered when policy is made in Boston. Ryan Chamberland is the District Representative for the Governor and is based in Springfield. Tara's letter outlines many of the challenges the Town faces with the number of miles, acreage, roads, bridges, etc. Another issue Tara raised in the letter was unfunded mandates which are difficult for small towns to fund, as there is a shortage of volunteers.

Tara also advised there is a Policy Subcommittee meeting in Sheffield this week Wednesday, April 29, 2014. Tara and Nat will attend, the subject of which is to address the viability of school programs.

Selectman Yohalem stated the School Committee is meeting Thursday, April 30, 2015, to review the reports from the Finance Committee and the Policy Committee that he will attend. Tara

indicated she has sent tax title information to Pat Mielke, who can update the spreadsheets prior to her coming to Town Hall in May.

Selectman Shalaby reported she met with the financial officers in Town two weeks ago. Progress is being made and a Tax Title person will be hired; however, that person must know the Sofrite program and be familiar with tax title issues. Tara suggested calls be made to neighboring Town Hall offices to determine whether or not someone may have an interest in this position, especially since it can be done after hours.

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 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary