



**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 6, 2015  
6:00 p.m.**

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

**Others Present:** Joseph Kellogg, Administrative Assistant  
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary

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

**A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2015 Selectmen's Meeting and the March 30, 2015 meeting as amended.**

**Dave Hastings Letter - Chairman,** Tara White, read the letter dated March 31, 2015 received from Dave Hastings. Selectman Nat Yohalem requested a letter be sent to Dave in response to his letter, reaffirming the Town's support and cooperation with the SBRSD.

**Annual Town Meeting Warrant** – Joe Kellogg will explain each Article at the Town Meeting prior to it being read. The following changes will be made to the Warrant:

- Article 13, Lines 26 (Treasurer's salary) and 27 (Assistant Treasurer's salary) will be level funded.
- Article 16 – Wording will be changed as follows: "To see if the Town will vote to advise the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Committee to permanently close the Monterey school as the expenses are needed for the education of all the District children."
- Article 17 – Wording will be changed as follows: "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,500.00 for the purpose of providing vocational education to Town students as required by State law, or to take any other vote in relation thereto."  
*(Recommended by the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen)*
- Article 19- The following wording will be changed to read: "*(NOT recommended by the Finance Committee or the Board of Selectmen)*"

- Article 29 – The language in the MBI warrant will be used as opposed to the Wired West suggested warrant.
- Article 32 – Animal Control – Joe Kellogg stated that Sheffield had a good animal control law and he will integrate parts of that into the New Marlborough law.
- Article 33 – Finance Committee Members – will be rewritten by Jeremia Pollard, Counsel for the Town.

**Cover for Annual Town Report** – The Board decided to use the painting of the Mill River Store as submitted by Kenzie Fields and painted by Shawn Fields.

**Town Administrative Structure** – Joe Kellogg advised that two new resumes have been received for the position of Town Administrator.

**Administrative Assistant Updates** – Joe indicated he had spoken with Clark Rowell from UniBank regarding the possibility of doubling the Town's debt. Clark spoke of several markers the Town should be aware of: (1) the Town's legal debt commitment which is 5% of the equalized valuation (the Town is valued at approximately \$426,000,000), (2) should not be over 10% of annual budget for debt service (the Town's annual budget is approximately \$5 million), and if the Wired West proposal was approved, that would put the Town's debt service over the 10%. The Town is currently not bond-rated, but would have to be if the Wired West proposal was approved. The fact that the Town would be over its 10% debt service limit could increase the interest rate on such a loan. Selectman Yohalem spoke of the Town's possibility of incurring approximately \$4.2 million worth of debt between the school bond and Wired West. In talking about future loans, such as the fire truck, Joe Kellogg also advised that the Town can only have a 5 year statehouse note, not ten years. Several years ago the Legislature was presented with the idea of a 10 year note, but it did not pass; however, small communities are being asked to sponsor a new petition for the legislature process to being to allow 10 year notes. Joe Kellogg stated he would prepare the article, with the assistance of Rep. Pignatelli's and Sen. Downing's office.

**Hampshire Power** – Mark Cappadonna, Colonial Power, asked if the Town could consider a 5-year electrical contract if the rates could be secured at \$.07-.09. Mark was also asked if Hampshire Power could consider dropping its rates to be competitive with National Grid and other suppliers. Colonial Power is currently talking with Hampshire Power to see if rates can be dropped.

**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 7:32 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck  
Administrative Secretary