



**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, August 31, 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
Charles Loring
Freddie Friedman

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6 p.m. The minutes of August 3 and August 17 were read and held until the next Selectmen's meeting.

Transfer Station

Selectman Tara White presented the Board with a sketch of the Transfer Station and how the flow of traffic could be improved. Freddie Friedman stated he had several plans he would like to try, then present those different scenarios in mid-October to the Board for approval. He also stated he would like to have a "senior" present to help with the traffic during the transition period. Other suggestions included changing the hours, instituting a "bulky waste" days where \$170 would be charged for each haul and \$150 per ton. Valley Roll-Off would be contacted to provide a container for this purpose.

Bid for Canaan Southfield Road/Sisson Hill Road

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to award the contract to Tri-Town Paving for \$180,168.20.

Five-Year Road Plan

Chairman, Michele Shalaby, discussed dividing the five-year road plan into categories:

1. How to finance.
2. Discussion with the Finance Committee
3. Chuck Loring will develop a year-by-year plan for road repairing/preserving that will be discussed at the Annual Town Meeting.

Some of the options to be considered for the roads are:

1. Do nothing.
2. Float a bond.
3. Increase the "Roads" budget.

Chuck further indicated that over this summer, he has only been able to do patching of the roads and that did not include bridges. Chuck advised there are approximately 30 stream crossings, and although they have not all been evaluated for replacement, the cost to replace a culvert is \$75,000-\$100,000.

Solicitor's Policy

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adopt the Solicitor's Policy, as amended, and registration form.

Broadband Timeline

Selectman, Nat Yohalem advised that MBI will do the construction for the broadband project. Every home will have the opportunity to have broadband. The construction would begin approximately 2-1/2 years from the time the bond is approved by the Town. The following questions were asked of Eric Nakajima who will respond by mid-September:

1. Accuracy as to the amount of the bond. Some of the wiring will be underground and others on poles. How will this affect the amount of the bond.
2. Driveways – The \$4.7 million only included 115 feet of driveway on overhead poles. MBI was asked what the cost would be for those driveways exceeding 115 feet, both for underground wiring and on poles. Will the Town be able to use conduits, i.e. are they large enough, who owns them, will residents be able to tap into those conduits?
3. Selecting an operator – Crocker would not provide the Town any funding and was ruled out as a possible operator. A second operator, Fiber Connect, would give the Town \$500,000 in exchange for a percentage of ownership in the system. The third operator is Wired West, which is a co-op, and will be owned by 20-30 towns.

The Town was awarded a \$5,000 planning assistance grant from MBI. The Ad Hoc Committee will make recommendations regarding the bond to the Board. The procedure for this decision-making process is as follows:

- A. Explore collaborations with other underserved towns:
 - Common RFP (via MBI?)
 - Evaluation of business plans
 - Legal guidance on contract drafts
- B. Compose request for proposal – BOS with guidance from MBI.
- C. Send/advertise requests for proposal.
- D. Evaluate proposals – business and technical expertise needed.
- E. Provide feedback on proposals/request amendments.
- F. Evaluate amended proposals.
- G. Request contract drafts.
- H. Evaluate contracts (builder and operator) - counsel needed.
- I. Determine recommendation (BOS and Finance Committee)
- J. Present recommendation.
- K. Special Town Meeting.

It was also suggested that this process could be accomplished in coordinating this process with other communities, i.e. pool grant monies. MBI will prepare the RFP which will be evaluated by counsel. MBI must approve the plan and operator in order for the town to get the grant. The Town will be given information regarding MBI's role, but the operator may not yet be chosen.

Town Administrator Updates

Mari Enoch advised that on September 20, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the Berkshire Trail Riders Association will have a 90 mile ride, partially through New Marlborough. Both Chuck Loring and Graham Frank will be advised

Mari also advised that the Berkshire County Group Health Insurance will be moving away from the Value Plus Plan to a deductible plan.

Selectmen's Updates

Selectman, Nat Yohalem, reported that the "Shared Services" mower, purchased with Sheffield, is working very well. A letter is being prepared, inviting ten other towns to attend a Shared Services meeting in an effort to bring other towns into the "Shared Services" community. "The Record" will interview both Sheffield and New Marlborough regarding Shared Services. A possible Shared Services agreement is being discussed with Canaan, CT., for their paver and New Marlborough's grater. A bid package is being prepared with Sheffield for equipment rental.

Sand Bid – Both Sheffield and New Marlborough are preparing estimated quantities required for sand this winter. These quantities will be given to Wilkinson who will determine whether or he can guarantee those quantities.

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 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary