



**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: nmbos@newmarlboroughma.gov**

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

**Minutes of Joint Board of Selectmen's Meeting
And Finance Committee
Monday, November 28, 2016
6:30 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair
Michele Shalaby

Others Present: Mari Enoch, Town Administrator
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary
Mark Carson
John Pshenishny
Marilyn Fracasso
Robert Miller
Prudence Spaulding

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee convened at 6:42 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

1. Discuss FY18 budget.
2. Discuss the Capital Plan.
3. Discuss Priorities.
4. Discuss Responsibilities of both the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Both the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee worked backward to set an budget calendar leading up to the Annual Town Meeting in May 2017 as follows:

Monday, May 1, 2017	Annual Town Meeting
Saturday, April 22, 2017	Presentation of budget to residents
Monday, April 17, 2017	Warrant complete
Monday, April 10, 2017	Budget Finalized
Thursday, March 16, 2017 (approx.)	School Budget due
February 2017	Free Cash Certification
Friday, January 6, 2017	Completed budgets due at Town Hall

Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, will attend an insurance meeting with Berkshire County Insurance on December 8 to discuss health insurance and potential plan change. Health Insurance is expected to rise.

The FY17 tax rate is expected to be set within the next few weeks.

Mari Enoch also handed out "At-a-Glance" from FY 17, along with a schedule of the Debt Service through FY21. The debt service will be the highest in FY18 at \$298,529 and decreases to \$149,596 by FY21. Mari also handed out a Prop 2½ Worksheet that also indicated the budget items expected to increase for FY18. Using an estimate of \$20,000 for new growth, the tax levy cannot increase by more than \$132,409 in FY18.

The FY18 Capital Plan includes a Highway truck F-550 for \$123,600. Vehicles that were not purchased last year still listed on the Capital Plan are a grader at \$283,250 and a Highway pick-up truck at \$47,000. Further discussions included not borrowing for future capital purchases, but using Stabilization and/or free cash instead.

Selectman, Michele Shalaby, suggested that the Town purchase a large screen to be used at the Annual Town Meeting to project the budgets to the residents.

Michele also advised of a road plan that she and Highway Superintendent, Chuck Loring, worked on last year, identifying the roads most needing repair, the time schedule and the money needed to repair/replace them.

Board of Selectmen Chair, Nat Yohalem, advised that Sheffield and New Marlborough will hold a Joint Board of Selectmen meeting on January 23, 2018 in Sheffield and invite surrounding towns to attend. Another joint meeting will be scheduled to take place in New Marlborough. The purpose of these meetings is to entice other towns to participate in Shared Services.

Michele Shalaby suggested that the next joint Finance Committee/Board of Selectmen meeting should include a discussion about the financial controls the Town is implementing.

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 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary