



**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, March 21, 2016
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

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:05 p.m. The minutes were read. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2016 meeting, as amended.

BUDGETS

Board of Selectmen Chair, Michele Shalaby, presented a budget to the Board based on the following criteria:

- Maintain services at current levels.
- COLA to cover increase cost of benefits and small increase in take-home pay.
- Increase Highway salaries per Charles Loring's suggestions to better match neighboring towns.

Improve infrastructures:

- Capital purchases and road projects via Free Cash and Stabilization

The proposed Highway budget includes:

- Contractual agreement with Highway Superintendent, Charles Loring.
- \$.75 per hour increase for four full-time employees.
- COLA increase of 2-1/2% for remaining employees.

The large increases in budget include \$54,406 in health insurance, a \$77,000 payment for the fire truck and \$10,805 in retirement funding.

School Budget – Increase of \$187,604.

Health and Human Services – Increased by \$8,463

Excavator - The Board of Selectmen discussed the possible purchase of an Excavator for \$140,000. Selectman, Tara White, stated she would like that item to be funded by Stabilization and additionally be placed on the ballot for approval.

Free Cash/Stabilization – There is currently \$690,000 in Free Cash. The Board discussed raising and appropriating \$50,000 in Stabilization for FY17 and transferring \$50,000 from Free Cash to Stabilization.

Ballot Question – The Board voted and unanimously approved the following Ballot Question: “Shall the Town of New Marlborough be allowed to assess an additional \$300,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the operating budgets of the Town and Regional School for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016?”

Budget Calendar – The budget calendar was amended to move the signing of the warrant to Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 10 a.m. The budget presentation to the New Marlborough citizens will be Saturday, April 30 at 10 a.m. in Town Hall. There will be no Board of Selectmen meeting on April 18 as it is Patriot’s Day.

Conservation Commission – **Per a request from the Conservation Commission, a motion was made, seconded and so voted to appoint Rona Easton to the Conservation Commission until June 30, 2016.** Four thousand (\$4000.00) was added as a line item. Selectman, Tara White, will talk to the Conservation Commission regarding raising fees.

Town Administrator Updates

Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, advised that Concrete Systems, Inc. noticed a conflict in Stantec’s specifications the Clayton Mill River Culvert. Stantec has been asked to clarify the plans.

Selectmen’s Updates

Board of Selectman Chair, Michele Shalaby, advised she is continuing to work on possible regionalization of the broadband network with neighboring towns. Selectman, Nat Yohalem, would like a letter to be sent to MBI confirming the June 30 deadline for town meeting’s approval of Broadband has been suspended.

Michele Shalaby reported that there is a meeting of the five towns on March 22 to further discuss the school budget with Dave Hastings.

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 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sharon Fleck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary