



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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Nathaniel H. Yohalem, chair
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby
Board of Selectmen

**Minutes of Board of Selectmen
August 29th, 2016
6:00**

Selectmen Present: Nat Yohalem, Chair
Michele Shalaby
Tara White

Others Present: Mari Enoch, Town Administrator

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:00 p.m. The minutes were read. A motion was made, seconded, and so voted to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2016 meeting as amended.

Umpachene Park Commission: The Board received a letter from Mr. Warren Weldon of Mill River indicating an interest in serving on the Umpachene Falls Commission, which currently has three vacancies. The Umpachene Park Commission recommends Mr. Weldon's appointment.

A motion was made, seconded, and so voted to appoint Warren Weldon to the Umpachene Parks Commission to fill a vacancy for a term ending June 30th, 2017. (Tara White recused herself from the vote as she is a spouse of the chair of the Park Commission.)

Town Administrator Updates:

Hadsell Street Bridge: Mari Enoch reported that Karen Axtell of Mass DOT Right of Way division emailed her that the Hadsell Street Bridge reconstruction project has received Right of Way Certification from the state. The state was scheduled to put the project out to bid on August 27th and the construction is expected to be completed in the summer of 2017.

Planning Board appointments: Mari reported that both Sharon Fleck and Tom Stalker, who had been appointed to the Planning Board for the purpose of obtaining enough signatures on the plans for the Right of Way certification, have resigned. The Planning Board will continue to seek out members to fill the two vacancies.

Highway Updates: Chuck Loring, Highway Superintendent, asked Mari to update the Selectmen on the following: The pre-cast pieces for the concrete culvert on Clayton Mill River Road are scheduled to be delivered and installed on September 1st and 2nd. The road will remain closed for at least another week to complete the project. Chuck believes the project will come in over budget and will keep the Board posted as he knows more. He also inquired about the status of the request for the state to maintain Route 57. Tara will coordinate with the other four towns on Route 57 and send a letter to State Representative Smitty Pignatelli to continue the conversation. Mari will ask District 1 Highway Supervisor Francesca Heming to meet with Smitty and town officials to discuss Route 57 and other New Marlborough highway concerns. Nat has volunteered to represent the selectmen for that meeting.

Berkshire Regional Planning: Berkshire Regional Planning has requested that the Town send a representative to a Southeast subregional caucus in Lee on September 21st to designate a Metropolitan Planning Organization delegate. Michele will attend.

Police Lock-up: The Town was asked to sign a memorandum of understanding with Gt. Barrington for use of the police lock up. The Town will continue to use the lock-up for \$100.00 per diem when needed. Chief Frank is in support of the agreement.

A motion was made, seconded, and so voted to authorize Mari Enoch, Town Administrator, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the towns of Gt. Barrington and New Marlborough for the use of the Gt. Barrington Police Lock-up for the fiscal year 2017.

Selectmen Updates:

Baystate Municipal Accounting: Tara White is concerned that Baystate, contracted to perform Treasurer duties for FY 2016, has not completed reconciling the books and has not been responsive to the town's email requests for information. Mari will schedule a phone call between Nat and Justin Cole, Baystate President, for Wednesday morning to address the concerns.

SBRSD: Nat reported that he attended the School Committee Meeting on August 24th, 2016. He informed the Board that the School Committee was waiting to hear from the Town of Monterey as to whether the \$10,000 match for repairs to the Monterey building would be used. Nat also reported that the state modified its assessment formula for FY 2017 after the member towns approved the budget causing a shift in town assessments. New Marlborough's change in the minimum required contribution increased .20% resulting in an increase in assessment of \$25,427. The school budget would need to be reduced by \$136,831.30 to result in no single town owing additional money. Nat will attend the SBRSD finance subcommittee on August 30th when this issue will be discussed further.

Memorial Day Contingency Plan: Dave Hastings has approved the Memorial Day Contingency Plan.

Chapter 61: Nat brought to the Board's attention the significant amount of land in New Marlborough that is classified as Chapter 61. Chapter lands, qualifying as Forestry, Agricultural, or Recreational lands, receive a much lower assessment and result in lower taxes levied. Nat wants to confirm that all property owners receiving this benefit are in compliance with the existing laws and regulations. Tara will attend the next Board of Assessors' meeting to follow up. Michele suggested the Town take advantage of the Department of Revenue's audit program to assist the Assessor's office.

Homelessness: Nat voiced a concern about potential homelessness and poverty in New Marlborough. It was decided the Town could educate its residents on the assistance programs available in Southern Berkshire County and would work with Town Police, Emergency Management, and Council on Aging in this endeavor.

Meetings: Tara asked if it was necessary for the Board of Selectmen to switch back to weekly meetings as summer ends. It was decided to assess the frequency of meetings on a meeting to meeting basis.

Broadband Update: Michele Shalaby updated the Board on the Broadband effort. She, Mari, and Richard Long, chair of the Broadband Committee met with Rep. Smitty Pignatelli on August 25th to discuss the home rule petition required for a long term contractual commitment. The Broadband committee met with representatives from MBI and the state on August 26 and discussed the procurement process, municipal agreement process, home rule petition, and the Request for Proposal. Michele has also contacted a corporate attorney who has connections to the State Economic Development Council for potential consultation.

Being that there was no further business, a motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Marie Enoch
Town Administrator