



**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 Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, September 19, 2016  
6 p.m.**

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

**Others Present:** Mari Enoch, Town Administrator  
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary  
Fran Lartigue  
Kristen Sparhawk  
David Travis  
Richard Long  
Tom Stalker

**The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:02 p.m. The minutes were read. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2016 meeting, as amended.**

**School Committee Members**

The Board of Selectmen met with School Committee members, Fran Lartigue and Kristen Sparhawk, as well as David Travis who is running unopposed and, if elected, will replace Kristen after the November elections. Board of Selectmen Chair, Nat Yohalem, made several suggestions to David, should he become the next Committee member.

1. Learn as much as possible about the duties/responsibilities as well as rules and regulations of a Committee member.
2. Understand the assessment issues and work toward lowering them for the five towns. Nat explained that although the school population is decreasing, the costs continue to rise.

Other issues that were discussed included:

1. The overflow parking problem at New Marlborough Central School. Dave Hastings reported he is working with Highway Superintendent, Chuck Loring, in putting down stones near the basketball court that will allow cars to park there.
2. The search and hiring of a new Superintendent of Schools.
3. The transportation contract expires this year and Ormsbee, the current bus company, has indicated it will not bid for the next contract. The district will be releasing an RFP for transportation this winter.
4. The future of both the Egremont and Monterey schools.

Dave Travis explained that his background was in education; and although his job will take him out of Town for a week every six weeks, he does not anticipate a conflict in attending School Committee meetings.

### **Broadband**

Richard Long reported that although MBI requested a hold on the Request for Proposal, he has requested that all changes be complete by Tuesday, September 20, 2016. Richard stated that MBI would like to have the RFP go to the Attorney General's office for approval, a process that could take 3-4 weeks.

Board of Selectmen Chair, Nat Yohalem, would like the RFP to be contingent on the grant from MBI. Selectman Michele Shalaby asked if Bill Ennen, liaison to the Governor's office, could be re-engaged in the RFP process.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES**

Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, advised that the Home Rule Petition would include a Proposition 2-1/2 override and must be approved by the Town at a Special Town Meeting. The Home Rule Petition would allow the Town to enter into a contract for up to fifteen years. Mari and Richard have been in contact with Sean Cronin, Sr. Deputy Commission of Local Services, to determine if the Town is required to use the full amount of the contract or the net amount taking into consideration projected MLP fees. Notice of a Special Town meeting must be given to the Town Clerk 45 days ahead of time and the warrant must be posted fourteen days ahead of the meeting. A date of November 7 was tentatively agreed upon for the Special Town Meeting.

Mari Enoch reported she received a copy of a letter sent to Gov. Baker by the Town of Heath, wherein it is requesting equal funding for Towns for broadband vs. cable (\$3,673 for cable vs. \$1,351 for broadband). The Board asked Mari to send a letter to the Governor joining the Heath request.

Guardrails for the Clayton Mill River culvert will be installed on Tuesday, September 20.

## SELECTMEN'S UPDATES

Nat reported that Verizon has dropped its cost to move wires on Clayton Mill River Road from \$62,399.62 to \$53,940.17.

An email was sent to CSI, builder of the Clayton Mill River Road culvert, advising it of some of the issues the Town had with the delivery and construction of the culvert. A detailed letter will be sent to CSI advising it of the additional costs and time delay to the Town resulting from CSI errors.

Nat Yohalem advised he will not be at the next Board of Selectmen's Meeting and that Selectman Tara White will chair the meeting. Nat will call in.

**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 7:31 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck  
Administrative Secretary