



**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, October 19, 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
Martha Bryan
Owen Hoberman
Charles Loring

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:01 p.m. The minutes were read. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of October 5, 2015, as amended.

School Assessment

Nat Yohalem and Michele Shalaby attended the SBRSD Finance Sub-Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2015. New Marlborough's revised assessment proved to be close to a break-even point. Neither Egremont nor Monterey wanted to pay any additional assessment beyond their correct assessment, while Sheffield, which had no representation at the meeting, would have to conduct a Town Meeting to raise the additional funds necessary for its under assessment of \$126,949. The next meeting of the SBRSD School Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 29, 2015.

Wired West

A letter to Rep. Kocot urged the Representative to amend Chapter 427 of the Session Laws of 2008 which would enable towns to finance the Last Mile fiber network using one-year notes. Selectman, Nat Yohalem, objected to the phrase "at a rate not to exceed 2 per cent above the rate of interest chargeable to the town." However, the Town can seek other financing options.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to sign the letter to Rep. Peter Kocot.

Community Compact Agreement

An email was received from Rep. Pignatelli, requesting an additional paragraph be added to the agreement which included municipalities sharing services in addition to the regional school districts.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to have the Town Administrator amend the application to add the additional language to the Compact Agreement.

Meeting with Tolland re. Rt. 57

A letter was received from the Town of Tolland requesting representatives from Towns of New Marlborough, Sandisfield and Granville to attend a meeting on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the desire for the State to take responsibility of Rt. 57. Monterey will also be contacted to attend this meeting.

Agreement for Shared Employee

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to authorize the Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, to construct an agreement to share benefits with other towns for an employee.

Land Trust/Cemetery Commission

Martha Bryan and Owen Hoberman, representing the Land Trust, acknowledged the Town's need for additional cemetery space. As a mutual resolution, the Land Trust requested a like exchange of properties. The property acquired by the Land Trust would be used for community purposes, i.e. gardens, hiking trails, etc. Both Mari Enoch and Selectman, Tara White, will work with the Tax Assessor's Clerk in an effort to identify acceptable properties. Another suggestion was to solicit residents, whose properties are contiguous with Land Trust property, requesting they consider donating part of their land to the Land Trust, thereby eliminating the taxes on that piece of property. It was agreed that both the Land Trust and the Town do due diligence in negotiating any such agreement.

Town Administrator Updates

Treasurer's Position – Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, reported that the Town Treasurer, Peter Gay, has resigned effective Tuesday, October 27. An ad has been placed in "The Record," as well as in the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association. Word has been spread locally in an effort to find a qualified candidate. Interviews will take place with interested applicants as resumes are received. In the meantime, the Town Clerk, Kathy Chretien, will process payroll until a Treasurer is hired.

Highway Department Grant - The Highway Department has been awarded a MIIA grant for \$4610.00. This grant will be used to purchase safety equipment for the department.

1998 International Dump Truck - Highway Superintendent, Chuck Loring, advised he received a bid of \$1,000.00 from Rydemore to purchase a 1998 International Dump Truck.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to sell the 1998 Dump Truck for \$1,000.00.

Propane Bid – Chuck Loring advised he received three bids for propane for the Highway Garage, i.e. Osterman, Carlson and Ormsbee.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the bid from Ormsbee at \$.359 over the posted price at Selkirk.

Fire Truck – The Town is in receipt of \$15,295.40 to pay the claim on the 1993 KME Pumper. The Town is responsible for a \$500 deductible. The Fire Truck will be used as a trade-in for the new truck which should be available in December 2015.

Berkshire County Manager's Meeting – It was recommended that all towns participate in the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's offer for free membership to protect the Town from cyber threats.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to have the Town join the MS-ISAC membership that supports cyber internet security.

MassWorks Grant - Sharon Fleck reported that she received information advising that grants will be awarded at the end of October.

ABCC – Sharon Fleck advised that renewals for alcohol licenses will be sent out this week.

Selectmen's Updates

Governor's Administration and Finance Office – A listening tour is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, in Springfield between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to have municipal officials to come in with suggestions as to what the State can do to aid municipalities, i.e. what State regulations are hindering communities to better serve their constituents. Selectman, Tara White, believed there was a subject list being prepared. Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, will endeavor to obtain that list, so the Board can determine whether or not they wish to attend. Tara felt that if subjects such as prevailing wage, engineering for bridges, etc. was going to be discussed, it would be worthwhile for Board members to attend. The Attorney General's website offers communities an opportunity to list the subjects that are important to them and should be discussed at such a meeting.

Fuel Tax – A letter was received from Sen. Ben Downing stating that three bills were before the Joint Committee on Revenue:

H.3725 would support Lee's ability to raise gas tax by \$.03/gallon.

H.3773 is similar with an option to tax meals and room occupancy, however, its preference is H.1474.

H.1474 would allow smaller communities to raise revenue to be used within the region to fund transportation projects.

Open Item List – will be maintained and reviewed by both Mari and Sharon and discussed at Board of Selectmen meetings.

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