



**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, November 16, 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
Tom Stalker
Richard Long
Prudence Spaulding

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:03 p.m. The minutes were read. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2015 meeting, as amended.

Stantec

The Board of Selectmen requested that a follow-up letter be sent to Stantec, asking for the results of their November 5 meeting with the Army Corp. of Engineers. The Board would also like a timeline of Stantec's plans to complete the concrete structure on Clayton Mill River Road. Sharon to coordinate with Chuck.

Rt. 57

The Towns of New Marlborough, Tolland, Granville, Sandisfield and Monterey originally proposed that the State take over the construction of Rt. 57, while the five towns continue to snow plow, mow, etc. However, consideration and a note from Highway Superintendent, Chuck Loring, suggested that the State take full responsibility for maintaining the road, and that the five towns use the snow plowing, mowing, etc. as a bargaining chip to entice the State to take over the road. Select Chair, Michele Shalaby, will incorporate Chuck's suggestion into the proposal to be sent to the State.

RFI

A RFI has been prepared by Tom Stalker and Richard Long. They will make suggested changes to the RFI that will delay it being put in the “Goods and Services Bulletin” by one week, i.e. November 23, 2015. Matrix, Crocker, Fiber Connect and Axia, who have already solicited the Town, will also be furnished with a copy of the RFI.

Inspector of Animals

Inspector of Animals, Prudence Spaulding, reported that the State requires farm animals must have three things: food, water and shelter. Prue has inspected forty-nine barns and has provided the Town and the State with the Animal Census for 2015. She is concerned there is no requirement for cats to have rabies shots.

Southern Berkshire Regional School District

On Tuesday, November 10, there was a meeting among the five towns’ Boards of Selectmen to discuss the assessment. Although additional cuts of \$69,000 were made to the budget, this still leaves the Town of Sheffield with a \$89,000 assessment. Sheffield hopes that further reductions to the budget will help them avoid a Special Town Meeting. The five Towns have requested that the School Committee review and adjust their budget every forty-five days. An attorney, working with Selectman Nat Yohalem and Charles Flynn from Egremont, will prepare a Memorandum of Understanding, to be signed by all five towns, requesting this review.

A motion was made seconded and so voted to approve the Memorandum of Agreement dated November 13, as it related to the assessments.

Town Administrator’s Updates

Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, reported that MIIA has offered the Town a two year rate for Liability and Workman’s Comp. There will not be a rate increase this year, while next year, the rate will not be more than 2.5 percent. These special rates were offered to only 25 towns.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to authorize Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, to sign the MIIA offer.

Selectmen’s Updates

Selectman, Nat Yohalem is writing letter to thank the School Committee, Rep. Pignatelli, Dave Hastings, Bruce Turner and Vito Valentini for their work on trying to resolve the school assessment issue.

Select Chair, Michele Shalaby, will sign a letter regarding the Umpachene Falls “Bridge Scoping.” The letter will request that the Umpachene Bridge should remain in character with the landscape, preserving the wooden bridge and community park atmosphere. This will then be emailed back to the State.

Treasurer's Position -Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, reported that Dencielle Delaney-Morin declined the position as Treasurer, as she wanted to be able to do work remotely. Other considerations for this position were to utilize Assistant Treasurers or hire outside sources. Priorities included the DE-1 form to establish the tax rate, monthly reconciliations for FY16 and end of calendar year filings. Selectman, Nat Yohalem, suggested that the Town temporarily hire an outside person to help with these issues. The Town has appropriated money to hire a Tax Title person and suggestions were made to approach other towns to determine if someone were interested in this position.

A motion was made at 7:52 p.m, seconded and so voted to go into Executive Session and not to return to regular session for the purpose of discussing an insurance claim and possible litigation.

Roll Call:	Michele Shalaby	Yes
	Nathaniel H. Yohalem	Yes
	Tara B. White	Yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary