



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
807 Mill River Southfield Road, Mill River, MA 01244-0099
Phone: 413-229-8116 Fax: 413-229-6674
E-mail: nmbos@newmarlboroughma.gov**

**Michele Shalaby, Chair
Nathaniel H. Yohalem
Tara B. White
Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, November 2, 2015
6 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Michele Shalaby, Chair (via telephone)
Nathaniel Yohalem
Tara B. White

Others Present: Mari Enoch, Town Administrator
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary
Gail Belmuth
Ned Odegaard
Tom Stalker
Richard Long
Graham Frank
Prudence Spaulding
Debora O'Brien
Claudette Callahan
Freddie Friedman

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve Michele Shalaby's participation in the meeting by telephone.

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6 p.m. The minutes were read. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2015, meeting, as amended and to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2015.

Special Permit

Gail Belmuth, 204 Norfolk Road, New Marlborough applied for a Special Permit to erect a 26' X 26' barn to replace a pre-existing, non-conforming barn. There were no concerns from abutters, Conservation Commission or Board of Health. The following Board of Selectmen's Roll Call unanimously voted to approve the Special Permit application:

Michele Shalaby	Yes
Nathaniel H. Yohalem	Yes
Tara B. White	Yes

MassWorks Grant

Selectmen, Nat Yohalem, advised that the Town received a MassWorks Grant of \$1million for the resurfacing of Clayton Mill River Road. Nat thanked all the people who worked on the grant.

Appointment of Police Officer

Police Chief, Graham Frank, advised the board that after interviewing four applicants for the position of a part-time officer, he recommends Nicholas Felix for the position.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to appoint Nicholas Felix to the position of part-time police officer.

Broadband

Select Chair, Michele Shalaby, thanked Tom Stalker and Richard Long for their assistance on the Broadband RFI-RFP effort. Michele drafted a letter to be sent to other towns asking if they would like to be a part of an RFI in order to share expertise, legal advice, etc. with New Marlborough.

Selectman Yohalem reported he had a telephone conversation on October 28 with representatives of MBI. MBI is preparing a grant application form that they will forward to the Town within a few weeks. Nat also asked MBI if they could provide the Town with a form of an RFI or an RFP. MBI has such a form, however, it is too comprehensive for a Town the size of New Marlborough. Nat reported that running the wire overhead is estimated to cost \$4/foot, while if the wire can be run through the conduit, the cost would be \$3-\$4/foot after the 150 foot drop. If the existing wire cannot be run through the underground telephone conduit and a new conduit has to be run, the cost will be \$15/foot.

Wired West has proposed that, under their operating agreement, they would own the system. The concern, however, is that if Wired West is not successful and declares bankruptcy, the Town would still have a \$3 million bond to pay for a product they do not own.

Nat also reported there is a meeting with Wired West in Becket on Friday, November 5 from 4-6 p.m.

Personnel Policy

Corrections were suggested; the final Policy will be available for approval on Monday, November 9, 2015.

Treasurer's Position

Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, reported interviews will take place later in the week.

Assistant Treasurer's Compensation

Compensation for Kathy Chretien, who is filling in until a new Treasurer is hired, was discussed. The number of hours and compensation will be discussed during the week and resolved at the next Board of Selectmen's Meeting on Monday, November 9, 2015.

Town Administrator Updates

Town Librarian, Debora O'Brien presented a solution to the flooding problem at the entrance to the Library when snow melts, freezes and remelts. The Library Trustees would like to hire Tony Pontier who believes he has solution to the problem. The estimated cost is \$1300-\$1600. The Library Trustees were advised to have Tony Pontier do the construction and if they exceed their budget, the Finance Committee will be contacted at the end of the fiscal year to make a transfer of funds.

Transfer Station

Freddie Friedman reported he has received compliments on the new routing of traffic at the Transfer Station. He suggested the hours be changed to both open an hour earlier and close an hour earlier. He also suggested the days be changed to Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The Board of Selectmen will take his recommendation under advisement.

Selectmen, Tara White, suggested that a Bulky Waste Day be held in both Spring and Fall

Veterans Day – Select Chair, Michele Shalaby, has drafted a letter to be sent to all veterans in Town thanking them for their service.

Meeting with DOT

Both Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, and Highway Superintendent, Chuck Loring, attended a meeting in Pittsfield. They requested that DOT include Rt. 57 in their five year capital plan.

Stantec - An email was received from Stantec advising that an inter-agency meeting is scheduled for November 5 regarding permitting for the concrete bridge. This permitting was originally expected last summer. Based on this November 5 meeting, Selectman Tara White would like, in writing, a timeframe from Stantec on the results of that meeting, along with anything else they need from the Town.

Selectmen's Updates

Michele Shalaby reported she attended a School Committee meeting and a School Finance Sub-committee meeting regarding the assessment issues in which they voted to reduce the budget by \$216,700. The question for the Town is what budget number should be used to set the tax rate, i.e. the original budget or revisions made by the School Finance Sub-committee.

Michele also reported that Sheffield Select Chair, Nadine Hawver, would like New Marlborough to send a letter to the Superintendent of Schools requesting that another look be given at the budget to see if additional reductions could be realized. Michele has drafted a letter to be sent to be signed by all three Selectmen.

MassWorks Grant – Thank you letters will be sent to everyone who provided letters of support to the Town, as well as under Secretary Vega. This letter will be signed by all three Selectmen.

Umpachine Falls Bridge – MassDOT met with Michele Shalaby and Chuck Loring on October 29 regarding “bridge scoping” Umpachine Falls Bridge, i.e. replacing the bridge. The bridge is scheduled to be replaced in 2020 at the State’s expense.

There is a meeting at Tolland on Wednesday, November 4, regarding the proposal that the State take responsibility for the upkeep on Route 57.

Nat Yohalem reported there is a Senior luncheon scheduled at the Mt. Everett School on Thursday, December 3, 2015. Reservations must be made as the luncheon is limited to 100 people.

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 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary