



**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, February 1, 2016
6 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Michele Shalaby, Chair
Nathaniel Yohalem
Tara B. White
Michael J. Cicchetti, Frontier Communications
James D. Her, Frontier Communications
Donald T. Crockett, Frontier Communications
Tom Stalker
Richard Long
Prudence Spaulding

Others Present: Mari Enoch, Town Administrator
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary

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 approval the minutes of the January 19 meeting, as amended and to hold the minutes of the January 25 meeting.

Frontier Communications

Board of Selectman, Michele Shalaby, welcomed the three gentlemen from Frontier Communications. Michael Cicchetti advised the Board that Frontier Communications has been in Connecticut for fifteen months and acquired SNET assets in 2014. Frontier Communications also serves all of Connecticut with telephone and some high-speed internet. Frontier Communications advised they can build and operate the system as they have technicians and trucks to serve the community and own the middle mile in Connecticut. They can provide internet, phone and television to the community. The representatives from Frontier requested the Town provide them with demographic information. Although Frontier initially advised they would like to own the system, they were told that MBI would most like not approve such an arrangement. Selectman, Nat Yohalem, suggested that other ownership arrangements could be made, such as a leasing agreement. The Board of Selectmen advised Frontier Communications to contact MBI in order to receive the RFP about to be released from MBI.

Michele Shalaby left at 6:50 p.m.

Agriculture Commission

Nat and Tara decided to table this until future meeting when Michele could discuss.

Town Administrator Updates

Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, advised the board she had received a request from Marsha Pshenishy to take four vacation days from February 16-19, 2016. The Board approved her request.

The Planning Board has been successful in their request for receiving a DLTA grant for updating Open Space and Recreational Plan.

Bryan Slack MassDOT, Right of Way Bureau, will be at Town Hall on Tuesday, February 9 at 1 p.m. to discuss the Hadsell Street Bridge right of way acquisition.

Michele Shalaby will attend a Community Compact Shared Services meeting, called by Smitty Pignatelli, on Thursday, February 4 at 6:30 in Great Barrington.

Legal Counsel advised that the Special Permit for Cantina 229 does transfer with ownership. Cantina 229 will proceed with obtaining an alcoholic beverage license. The 9:30 p.m. closing time lies in a gray area, i.e. does Cantina 229 have to close its doors at 9:30, stop serving food and alcohol at that time or must all customers leave by 9:30? The Board of Selectmen need to determine what the 9:30 closing time specifically means. Selectman, Tara White raised concerns about parking, in view of the fact that parking will not be permitted on Rt. 57.

Michele Shalaby would like a follow-up call be made to MBI regarding the letters that were sent to Eric Nakajima, John Furey and Todd Cocoran. Nat Yohalem will follow-up with these gentlemen.

A discussion ensued regarding the ballot vote for the broadband bond that passed last May. Town Clerk, Kathy Chretien, will be asked to research whether or not the vote expires.

Selectman, Tara White, attended a School Finance Committee meeting last week regarding the budget. No principal payment will be due this year on the school boiler/roof bond, however a \$90,000 interest payment is due.

Senior Work-Off Program

Prudence Spaulding, Chair, Council on Aging, reported that there is a pending bill before the legislature that will allow seniors to earn up to \$1250 per year as opposed to the \$1000 they can now earn. Because the bill remains in the Legislature, she would like the Town to adjust the exemption for New Marlborough Seniors, MGL Chapter 59, Section 5K.

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 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary