



**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, November 21, 2017
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

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:08 p.m. The minutes were read. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of November 7, 2016 as amended.

The Board of Selectmen decided to hold the minutes of the November 14, 2016 meeting until November 21, 2016

Broadband Updates/Strategy

A meeting with Frontier has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 22, 2016. Broadband committee member, Owen Wright, will be added to the negotiating team that will consist of Richard Long, the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator, Mari Enoch. The Board of Selectmen discussed hiring legal counsel to assist with the negotiations. Board of Selectmen, Michele Shalaby, suggested Paul Nicolai of the Nicolai Group in Springfield. It is anticipated that the Town will incur no costs, as The Economic Development Council of Massachusetts will provide Mr. Nicolai services.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to appoint the Nicolai Group as counsel for negotiations with Frontier Communication, subject to Western Massachusetts EDC providing council, with no fee, except for out-of-pocket expenses.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted, by roll call vote, to go out of regular session and go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the strategy for the Tuesday, November 22, 2016 meeting with Frontier Communications. The Board of Selectmen will go back into Regular Session following the Executive Session.

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

Set Joint Meeting with Finance Committee re FY18 Budget

A joint meeting with the Finance Committee will be held on Monday, November 28, 2016 at 6:30 at Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting will be to review the FY17 budget and begin the FY18 budget discussions.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, reported that Patricia Hardyman, Planning Board, is exploring the need for a solar bylaw and would like to meet with the Board of Selectmen. The Planning Board will meet with the Board of Selectmen on Monday, December 5, 2016.

The Board was also advised that health care insurance rates are going to increase and the one way to decrease the cost is to raise the deductible. Mari will attend a meeting on Thursday, December 8 with the Berkshire County Insurance Group to discuss a potential plan change. Berkshire Health Group will also explore buying insurance with MIIA; however, that option would not be available until F19.

Mari also advised that the contract for the Hadsell Street Bridge has been awarded, although the contractor has not been announced. The Town will incur no costs unless it decides to add something to the bridge, i.e. plants, etc.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to authorize Mari Enoch to sign the State contract for the Hadsell Street Bridge.

The Town has received a revised contract for the \$1 million MassWorks grant, which needs to be signed by the Board of Selectmen, Highway Superintendent, Charles Loring, and the Town Administrator.

The Fire Department is applying for a \$13,000 FEMA grant for a washer/dryer for turn-out gear. The grant covers 80 per cent of the cost.

Snow and Ice Removal Bid – Sheffield advised it received two bids, and the costs per hour were \$65-\$70. Great Barrington does not sub-contract these bids. When Bassett plowed for the Town two years ago, the charge was \$65/hour. Highway Superintendent, Charles Loring, will be asked to negotiate with Keith Wilkinson on his bid of \$75.

Audit – Both Tom Scanlon and Associates will be at Town Hall assisting both the Tax Collector, Gina Campbell, and the Treasurer, Marilyn Fracasso, with preparations for an audit that may be scheduled by the end of 2016.

SELECTMEN’S UPDATES

Selectman, Tara White, advised she attended a meeting the previous week regarding the selection of a new school superintendent. She reported that the Screening Committee would like to find a

different way to evaluate candidates. The Committee also discussed trying to build up the school, perhaps adding a Vo-Tech program. Mergers with other schools were also discussed, acknowledging that hard decisions have to be made regarding school closings, staff, etc.

Board of Selectman Chair, Nat Yohalem, reported the Board received a letter from the Agricultural Commission, requesting that it be allowed to have a Farmer's Market on the Village Green one or two times a week (Wednesday and Saturday) and are seeking Board of Selectmen approval. The Board will meet with the Agricultural Commission at a later date to discuss

The Board of Selectmen also received a request from the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce to have the Town spotlighted in one of their editions. The Board decided not to participate.

A Hampshire Council on Government summit will be held on December 3, 2016; however, none of the Selectmen are available to attend

Highway Superintendent, Chuck Loring, will provide final bills for expenses on the Clayton Mill River Culvert, causing the project to go over budget.

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 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary