



**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 Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
Wednesday, January 18, 2017  
12:30 p.m.**

**Board Members Present:** Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair  
Tara B. White  
Michele Shalaby

**Others Present:** Mari Enoch, Town Administrator  
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary  
Sandra Walker  
Tom Stalker  
Richard Long  
Barry Shapiro  
Steven Klein  
Rick Sullivan (Western Massachusetts Economic  
Development Council)

**The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 12:30 p.m.**

Board of Selectmen Chair, Nat Yohalem, provided a summary and update on the broadband effort.

- The deadline for negotiations with Frontier Communications expired on January 14, 2017.
- During the negotiating period, the Town submitted a list of issues to be negotiated to Frontier. Frontier did not respond to the Town with potential dates to negotiate before the January 14 deadline.
- The Towns of Sandisfield, Monterey and Tolland issued a joint RFP as Municipal Lighting Plants (MLP). The RFP can be amended to include other towns in the event New Marlborough wishes to join that effort.
- A Board of Selectmen meeting to be held on January 24 will determine whether or not the Town will participate in the three town RFP. If the Town chooses to participate in the MLP RFP, legal fees of up to \$2,000 would be assessed to each town for preparing the RFP.

- Nat further explained there is a Broadband meeting on Friday, January 20, in Lee with representatives from MBI (Massachusetts Broadband Institute), Rep. Smitty Pignatelli and the three other towns involved in the MLP. Grant money from the State will be discussed as this is of concern to all the towns, and the towns will be seeking confirmation from MBI that the MLP approach is viable.
- MBI's RFP covers forty towns and was returnable on January 11, 2017. The list of responders to MBI's RFP will be released on Monday, January 23, 2017.

### Minutes

Sandra Walker expressed her concern regarding the timely availability of minutes from all the Board meetings in Town. She stated that minutes, or a draft of the minutes, from all Boards should be available within ten days of a meeting, according to the State regulations. Nat explained that Board of Selectmen's meetings are available as soon as possible and that she should contact other Boards to insure a timely release of minutes.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES**

Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, advised that the Planning Board would like to apply for a DLTA grant from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to assist it in developing a solar energy bylaw.

**A motion was made, seconded and so voted to authorize Board of Selectmen Chairman, Nat Yohalem, to sign the application for the grant.**

The Board responded favorably to a draft of a letter addressed to Governor Baker from Berkshire Planning Commission. The letter asks the State to lift the requirement for towns to use the pre-qualified engineers, encourage pre-fabricated bridges and increase funding.

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is holding a "Municipal Actions on Marijuana Legalization" workshop on Thursday, January 26, 2017 in Lenox. Jamie Mullen, Planning Board, asked that a representative from the Board of Selectmen attend.

An update from Chuck Loring, Highway Superintendent, disclosed that he is considering not replacing two of the culverts on Clayton Mill River Road, which is part of the \$1 million MassWorks grant. He feels the culverts are not in critical need of replacement and that those monies could best be used elsewhere on the road.

Bridge-scoping was conducted with MassDOT and Town representatives to discuss the replacement of a bridge on Campbell Falls Road and the steel bridge on Norfolk Road, both of which are scheduled for 2020.

**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 12:58 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary