



**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**

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

**Minutes Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Wednesday, January 18, 2017
1 p.m.**

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

Others Present: Mari Enoch, Town Administrator
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary
Richard Long
Rick Sullivan (Western Massachusetts Economic
Development Council)

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Nat Yohalem stated that the meeting would be open and the Board would not enter Executive Session. Rick spoke to the Board and residents on his background and stated that the WMEDC desired to help the Town in procuring Broadband.

Nat Yohalem updated Rick of the Town's interest in joining the RFP for the MLP. Rick stated he believed in the regional approach and believed that MBI would also look favorably upon such a collaborative effort. Nat also explained the Town's concern regarding getting grant monies from MBI. He explained that the original amount MBI of grant money from MBI was \$1.7 million, but now it has been reduced to \$920,000.

Rick explained that WMEDC does not provide legal services, but Paul Nicolai has been willing to provide legal advice. Rick stated the WMEDC can act as an advocate for the Town with MBI and can participate in meetings.

Board of Selectman, Michele Shalaby, then spoke of the areas in which WMEDC should advocate for the Town:

- Confirm that the money set aside by the State is still available for all towns.
- Get commitment from MBI that grant money is available. MBI has indicated that some grant monies may not be available, but has not put that in writing.

Rick stated that he will correspond with Mari regarding information he is able to learn from MBI.

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 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary