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
Tuesday, January 24, 2017
8 a.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
Chuck Loring, Highway Superintendent
Tim Newman

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 8 a.m. The minutes were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2016 and January 3, 2017 meetings.

RFP MLP Update

The Board of Selectmen discussed the Town's inclusion in the multi-town (Monterey, Sandisfield, Tolland) MLP RFP for high bandwidth internet services. The RFP has been issued and is due back on February 6, 2017, but may be extended because of New Marlborough's inclusion.

There was a meeting on Friday, January 20, 2017 in Lee with the three other towns, MBI and Rep. Smitty Pignatelli and the press.

MBI had $22 million for construction of the Broadband network and $18 for engineering and design. The original amount of money MBI said would be available to the Town was, $1.7 million for both construction and design. However, the design money is no longer available to New Marlborough as MBI will not be designing its system. MBI committed New Marlborough to $920,000 construction allocation. The funds will be paid by MBI to the provider in incremental amounts based on stages of construction. MBI has to approve the vendor for an MLP which will take one to two months.

MBI has published the responses to its RFP on its website. The responders to the MBI RFP were Comcast, Charter, Crocker, Fiber Connect, Mid-Hudson Data and Westfield Gas and Electric (Whip City Fiber). Richard Long reported that neither Comcast, Mid-Hudson Data nor Charter included New Marlborough in their proposal. Crocker and Whip City Fiber will submit proposals that include New Marlborough.

Nat Yohalem wants the Town to be part of the RFP for an MLP and agree to pay the Town's share of the legal fees which should not exceed $2,000

A motion was made, seconded and so voted for the Town of New Marlborough to ask the Towns of Sandisfield, Monterey and Tolland to amend their Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Municipal Lighting Plant to include New Marlborough, and to advise those three Towns that New Marlborough is willing to pay 25 per cent (25%) of the legal fees incurred for preparation of the RFP which we understand should not exceed $2,000 per town.

The above motion will be sent to Alice Boyd, Board of Selectman in Sandisfield, who will forward the legal papers required. New Marlborough's, MLP board must vote the Resolution. A meeting will be scheduled for Monday, January 30, 2017 at 5:45 p.m.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

MassWorks Grant - Highway Superintendent, Chuck Loring, advised the Board of Selectmen that the $50,000, originally planned for two culverts on the Clayton Mill River Road, could best be used at the intersection at Konkapot Road. Verizon will charge $50,000 to move poles at the intersection. The culverts are not in danger of collapsing, but reconfiguring the Konkapot intersection would make it safer.

Chuck also reported that the culvert completed last fall on Clayton Mill River Road went over budget by approximately $30,000.

Bridge Scoping - Bridge-scoping was conducted with MassDOT and Town representatives to discuss the repair of a bridge on Campbell Falls Road and the steel bridge on Norfolk Road, both of which are scheduled for replacement in 2020. The bridges will be closed for 60 days. The Town will be responsible for securing right-of-ways.

There is a meeting with the four towns on January 25 in Monterey to discuss the MLP RFP for broadband.

Jeremia Pollard, Counsel for the Town, will prepare the warrant article asking for the Town to accept the donation of property by the New Marlborough Land Trust for the purpose of cemetery expansion.

There is also a workshop on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 6 p.m. in Lenox to discuss Municipal actions on marijuana legalization. The Planning Board requests that someone from the Board of Selectmen attend that meeting.

SELECTMEN'S UPDATES

There is a School Committee, Policy Subcommittee Meeting Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 4 p.m. There also is a School Committee Warrant Subcommittee Meeting on Friday, January 27, 2017 at 2:15 p.m.

Selectman, Tara White, reported that SBRSD is down 46 students from last year, bringing the district population to under 700 students. Tara will attend the School Committee Finance Subcommittee meeting on January 31 at 7 p.m.

There also is a School Committing meeting in Sheffield on February 2 at 7 p.m. that Nat will attend.

A six month bond (February-August 2017) has been issued for the school boilers. The school is anticipating a full restructure of the bond sometime in May 2017 after its final audit of the project.

Tim Newman advised the Board that Wired West has issued an RFP for operating a broadband network and that there is a workshop on Saturday at the JFK Middle School in North Hampton to release the results of the RFP.. A partner in this venture will be announced at that meeting.

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 9:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary