

**Members Present:** Wayne R. Walker, Heather M. Billings, James A. DeLisle

**Others Present:** Karen Murphy, Stephanie Lahtinen, Keith Harding, Joseph Flanagan, Melody Smith, Ellen Sheehan, Mike Fortin, Kevin Nivala, Bill Ewing, David Monty, Atty. Bill Solomon, Greg Franks

**CALL TO ORDER**

W. Walker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in room 205 of the Town Hall. He announced that the meeting was being recorded by Ashburnham/Westminster Community Access TV.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

W. Walker announced that Thomas Sifert has reached the rank of Eagle Scout. The Board of Selectmen will present him with a Certificate of Recognition for this achievement.

**APPROVALS**

MINUTES

J. DeLisle made a motion to approve the minutes of June 6, 2016 as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

WARRANTS

H. Billings made a motion to approve the following warrants.

May 23, 2016	Accounts Payable 16-47A	\$155,130.72
May 30, 2016	Accounts Payable 16-48A	\$161,437.83
May 31, 2016	Payroll 16-48B	\$226,449.27
June 1, 2016	Deduction 16-48C	\$199,435.16
June 6, 2016	Accounts Payable 16-49A	\$19,665.93

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

YEAR-END APPROPRIATION TRANSFER REQUEST

Chief Nivala requested a \$5,000 appropriation transfer from his department's personnel expenses to his operating expenses. He indicated that this money would be used to make repairs to the apparatus ceiling in the Fire Station.

H. Billings made a motion to approve the appropriation transfer of \$5,000 from personnel to operating expenses in the Fire Department budget. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

FIRE TRUCK BOND RENEWAL

Melody Smith was present to discuss a Bond Anticipation Note in the amount of \$220,000 for a fire truck.

J. DeLisle made a motion to execute the Bond Anticipation Note Renewal, in the amount of \$220,000 for a term of one year. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

COUNCIL ON AGING APPOINTMENT

H. Billings made a motion to appoint Dorothy Barrett to the Council on Aging. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.



PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION

**- Full Time Fire Fighter**

H. Billings made a motion to hire Colin Rooney, as a full time firefighter. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**- Full Time Dispatcher**

H. Billings made a motion to hire Kimberly Bonk as a full time dispatcher. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**- Parks and Recreation**

H. Billings made a motion to hire five part time employees for Parks and Recreation summer program. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**- Crocker Pond Permit Attendant and Disclosure Statement**

H. Billings made a motion to hire Kristin Peters as the Crocker Pond Permit Attendant. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

H. Billings made a motion for the chairman to sign a disclosure agreement, in compliance with MGL Chapter 28A for the hiring of Ms. Peters, and to approve her exemption from s.20. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**- Children's Librarian**

H. Billings made a motion to hire Amy Kuilema as the full time Children's Librarian. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

YANKEE STREET FAIR

W. Walker indicated that the First Congregational Church is requesting use of town property around the Old Town Hall for their annual Yankee Street Fair on Saturday August 7, 2016.

H. Billings made a motion to approve the request from the First Congregational Church. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

ANNUAL APPOINTMENT LIST

W. Walker made a motion to reappoint the following individuals, who's terms are due to expire June 30, 2016. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Board/Committee	Name		Term Exp.
Agricultural Commission	Andy	Hertel	6/30/2019
Cable Advisory Committee	Joseph	Flanagan	6/30/2019
Conservation Commission	Daniel	Bartkus	6/30/2019
Conservation Commission	Robert	Gendron	6/30/2019
Conservation Commission	Tim	Sheehan	6/30/2019
Council on Aging	William	Antoniatic	6/30/2019
Crocker Pond Rec. Area Comm.	Patricia	Streeter	6/30/2019
Crocker Pond Rec. Area Comm.	Mary Ann	Falconer	6/30/2019
Historical Commission	Elizabeth	Hannula	6/30/2019
Historical Commission	Joan	Longcope	6/30/2019
Liquor Commission	Allison	Streeter	6/30/2019



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Parks & Recreation	Mark	Dellasanta	6/30/2019
Public Works Commission	Vance	Butterfield	6/30/2019
Tree Warden	Joshua	Hall	6/30/2019
Veterans' Graves Officer	Mark	Landry	6/30/2019
Wachusett Mtn. Advisory Council	William	Wintturi	6/30/2019
Wachusett Mtn. Advisory Council Alternate	Chris	Mossman	6/30/2019
Zoning Board - Associate	John	Bowen	6/30/2019
Zoning Board - Associate	Edwin E.	Kaarela	6/30/2019
Full Time Police Officer	Kent	Benson	6/30/2019
Full Time Police Officer	Sgt. Leroy	Hawkins, Jr.	6/30/2019
Full Time Police Officer	Ralph	LeBlanc	6/30/2019
Full Time Police Officer	Lt. Michael	McDonald	6/30/2019
Full Time Police Officer	Richard	Michel	6/30/2019
Full Time Police Officer	Amy	Nelson	6/30/2019
Full Time Police Officer	Sgt. Edward	Robbins	6/30/2019
Full Time Police Officer	Jeffrey	Shampine	6/30/2019
Full Time Police Officer	Jason	Tamulen	6/30/2019
Full Time Police Officer	Jason	Wetherbee	6/30/2019
Full Time Police Officer	Nick	Auffrey	6/30/2019
Full Time Police Officer	Nathan	Hawkins	6/30/2019
Animal Control Officer	Kim	Landry	6/30/2017
Assistant Animal Control Officer	Robyn	Southern Inniss	6/30/2017
Assistant Animal Control Officer	Cheryl	Slack	6/30/2017
Ass't. Insp. of Plumb. & Gas Piping	Wayne	Little	6/30/2017
Building Commissioner - Part Time (Alt)	Richard	Hanks	6/30/2017
Emergency Management	Charles	Clarkson	6/30/2017
Emergency Management	Jeffrey	Curtis	6/30/2017
Emergency Management	Gilbert	Parks	6/30/2017
Emergency Management Radio Operator	Bill	Leger	6/30/2017
Emergency Management	Robert	Hamm	6/30/2017
Emergency Management	Clay	Swenor	6/30/2017
Fire Chief, Forest Warden & EM Dir.	Kevin	Nivala	6/30/2017
Insp. of Plumbing & Gas Piping	Tom	Wiinikainen	6/30/2017
Inspector of Wiring	Loring H.	Barrett	6/30/2017
Inspector of Wiring - Alternate	Harry	Parviainen	6/30/2017
Inspector of Wiring - Alternate	Richard	Cannavino	6/30/2017
Local Inspector	Dan	Martin	6/30/2017
Part Time Police Officer	Steven	Couture	6/30/2017
Part Time Police Officer	Andrew	Loescher	6/30/2017
Part Time Police Officer	David	LeBlanc	6/30/2017
Part Time Police Officer	Christopher	Conrad	6/30/2017
Part Time Police Officer	John	Boucher	6/30/2017
Part Time Police Officer	Nick	Aveni	6/30/2017
Part Time Police Officer	Robert	Siano	6/30/2017
Full Time Police Officer - K9	Bruin	K-9	6/30/2017
Police Chief & Special Constable	Salvatore	Albert, Jr.	6/30/2017
Police Matron	Nanette	Pierce	6/30/2017
Police Matron	Michelle	Chevarie	6/30/2017
MART Advisory Board	Heather	Billings	6/30/2017
Veterans' Services Agent	Tom	Maeder	6/30/2017



## **HEARINGS/OTHER SCHEDULED MATTERS**

### **COMCAST LICENSE RENEWAL**

Comcast representative Greg Franks, Special Counsel Bill Solomon and the Cable Advisory Committee were present to discuss the status of cable contract negotiations with the Board. Included in this discussion is the issue facing many residents of West Princeton, Bragg Hill and Bolton Roads; many of whom are currently without Comcast service.

Karen Murphy gave a brief overview of the current status of the town's negotiations with Comcast, and indicated that despite offering to offset some of the build out cost, Comcast would not come down on the amount they are requiring from the town and/or residents.

Multiple residents voiced their concerns about the lack of service provided by Comcast, indicating that it is very difficult to live and work with no internet access in their homes. Students are having difficulty completing assignments from school, among many other inconveniences due to this lack of service.

G. Franks indicated that the Comcast holds strictly to its density requirement of 15 homes per aerial mile for a buildout to occur, and service would not be brought to these areas without a financial contribution from the town or residents.

Mr. Solomon and Mr. Franks discussed the current situation in Westminster, and the status of the contract. Mr. Franks indicated that the buildout would cost Comcast a total of \$220,000, of which they would require the town to contribute \$150,000.

Discussion continued between the Board, Mr. Franks and Mr. Solomon regarding the amount of revenue Comcast gets from Westminster and the length of time it would take to recover their funds if they were to cover the entire cost of the buildout.

The Board indicated they would like to see this issue resolved and that \$150,000 in funding is too much for the town to pay for this buildout. Comcast needs to be more willing to negotiate. The Board directed the Cable Advisory Committee to continue working with Comcast and moving this process forward.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

W. Walker moved that the board enter into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss nonunion contract negotiations and that the chairman declares that an open meeting may have an adverse impact on the town's bargaining position. J. DeLisle seconded the motion. Mr. Walker indicated that the meeting would adjourn directly following Executive Session. The motion was passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned directly from Executive Session at 8:55 p.m.

James A. DeLisle, Clerk  
*(Prepared by S. Lahtinen)*