

Members Present: Heather M. Billings, James A. DeLisle

Others Present: Karen Murphy, Steve Wallace, Betsy Hannula, Ralph LeBlanc, Chief Albert, Bill Waight, Betsy Hannula, Joan Longcope, Joe Flanagan, Ross Barber, Doneen Durling, Mike Fortin, Keith Harding

CALL TO ORDER

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

H. Billings announced that early voting will be available to all registered voters, at the Westminster Town Hall from October 24 - November 4. Early voting can be done in person or via the mail during regular hours of operation as well as until 7pm on October 25th and 27th and November 1st and 3rd; and from 8:00am-12:00pm on Saturday October 29th. This information is all available on the town website www.westminster-ma.gov

APPROVALS

WARRANTS

J. DeLisle made a motion to approve the following warrants.

October 20, 2016 Accounts Payable 17-16A \$538,751.36

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2016

J. DeLisle made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 3, 2016. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANT

J. DeLisle made a motion to approve this year's annual allotment of Cultural Council Grant funding totaling \$4600. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

NOVEMBER 8 ELECTION WARRANT

J. DeLisle made a motion to approve the November 8, 2016 Election Warrant. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION – POLICE SERGEANT

J. DeLisle made a motion to promote Ralph LeBlanc to the position of Sergeant, filling a vacancy due to a retirement. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Chief Albert congratulated newly appointed Sgt. LeBlanc and presented him with his badge. Family members and other officers were in attendance.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION – SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER

J. DeLisle made a motion to appoint Leroy Hawkins Jr. as Special Police Officer for details only. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION – COUNCIL ON AGING SUBSTITUTE DRIVER

J. DeLisle made a motion to hire Thomas Mansfield as Highway Truck Driver and Laborer, filling a vacancy. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

HEARINGS/OTHER SCHEDULED MATTERS

TOWN PLANNER – OLD TOWN HALL WARRANT ARTICLE RECOMMENDATION

S. Wallace presented the results of the Old Town Hall survey. Mr. Wallace indicated that of the 1224 surveys returned, approximately 70% of the respondents chose Option 1 – Sell the Building with Historic Preservation Restriction. He stated that since this is the clear preferable choice, he would like to put an article on the Special Town Meeting warrant to request \$4000 to hire a consultant to draft an RFP to sell the building.

Betsy Hannula expressed her personal opinions regarding the disposition of the Old Town Hall, and advocated for the town preserving it as a public building for further use by the Town and its residents.

ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT REFERRAL

J. DeLisle made a motion to refer the Adult Entertainment Bylaw to the Planning Board for revision and clarification. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES CONTRACT WITH MART

H. Billings stated that MART is requiring all towns within the service area to enter into a standard contract with the transit authority for the services they provide. The Board discussed the changes to the contract, and how they will affect the town.

J. DeLisle made a motion to enter into a contract with the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority for the use and dispatch of the Council on Aging van. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

REVIEW DRAFT LIST OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES

The Board discussed the draft list of Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles. The Board will finalize the warrant at the November 7, 2016 meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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