

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

**Members Absent:** James A. DeLisle

**Others Present:** Stephanie Lahtinen, Ellen Sheehan, Melody Smith, ML Altobelli, Dean Johnson, Doneen Durling, Gardner News; Laurie LeClair, Tiffany Davis, S.O.C.S Parent Group

### **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 and the Gardner News.

### **APPROVALS**

#### WARRANTS

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

January 19, 2017	Accounts Payable 17-29A	\$43,909.63
January 26, 2017	Payroll 17-30B	\$195,397.52
January 25, 2017	Deduction 17-30C	\$173,191.14

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2017

H. Billings made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 9, 2017. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### BAN RENEWAL – WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

Melody Smith was present to request the approval of Bond Anticipation Note in the amount of \$240,000 for the water main replacement on Elliott Street, Bacon Street and Pleasant Street. This is the final year of this bond.

H. Billings made a motion to execute the Bond Anticipation Note Renewal, in the amount of \$240,000 for a term of one year with UniBank at an interest rate of 1.15%. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### NET METERING AGREEMENT – KEARSARGE

This item was deferred and will be taken up by the Board at a future meeting.

#### SOLAR TAX AGREEMENT – WESTMINSTER RENEWABLES LLC

This item was deferred and will be taken up by the Board at a future meeting.

#### CULTURAL COUNCIL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

H. Billings made a motion to approve the Conflict of Interest Disclosures from the Cultural Council and have determined that the interest disclosed is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of services expected from the following council members; Ceil Burgess, Mary Waight and Patricia Gendron. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### ALTERNATE WIRING INSPECTOR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

H. Billings made a motion to accept the Conflict of Interest Disclosure from Richard Cannavino, Alternate Wiring Inspector. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### SENIOR CENTER PORTICO – CHANGE ORDER

This item was deferred and will be taken up by the Board at a future meeting.

#### 2017 FARMER'S MARKET RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Board discussed the updates to the Rules and Regulations with Agricultural Commission chair, ML Altobelli. Ms. Altobelli indicated that the only changes that have been made were a small increase to the price per booth for the vendors for the season.

H. Billings made a motion to accept the changes to the 2017 Farmers Market Rules and Regulations. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### **HEARINGS/OTHER SCHEDULED MATTERS**

##### CHAPTER 61B LAND WITHDRAWAL/RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL – MINOTT ROAD

Dean and Debra Johnson have notified the Town of their intent to sell approximately 1.5 acres of land off Minott Road currently classified under Chapter 61B. After requesting input from departments, there has been no indication of any compelling public purpose for the use of this property.

W. Walker made a motion for the Town not to exercise its Right of First Refusal to purchase the property, and to allow for the sale of the land by Mr. and Mrs. Johnson. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

##### SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS PARENT GROUP

Laurie LeClair and Tiffany Davis were in attendance representing the Support Our Children and Schools (S.O.C.S.) parent group. They indicated that the group consisted of parents from both Ashburnham and Westminster that are concerned about the cuts that have taken place in the Ash-West School District over the last 10-12 years.

The group discussed the cuts to funding that have been made, as well as their concerns regarding the detrimental effect these cuts are having on the students.

The Board and the S.O.C.S. members discussed the group's goals, and also what their appropriate next steps should be to pursue additional funding for the district.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### REVISE BUILDING PERMIT AND ELECTRICAL PERMIT FEE SCHEDULES (SOLAR)

This item was deferred and will be taken up by the Board at a future meeting.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session at this meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Heather Billings, Vice Chair

*(Prepared by S. Lahtinen)*