

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

Others Present: Karen Murphy, Stephanie Lahtinen, Kevin Nivala, Kyle Butterfield, Joe Serio, Peter Normandin, Erin Casali, Ross Barber, Marcia Sharkey, John Bowen, Representatives from SOCS 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.

APPROVALS

WARRANTS

W. Walker made a motion to approve the following warrants.

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|----------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| March 30, 2017 | Accounts Payable 17-39A | \$13,308.62 |
| April 6, 2017 | Payroll 17-40B | \$160,299.05 |
| April 5, 2017 | Deduction 17-40C | \$183,448.34 |

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2017 AND APRIL 3, 2017

J. DeLisle made a motion to approve the minutes of March 27, 2017. The motion was seconded and passed with W. Walker abstaining.

J. DeLisle made a motion to approve the minutes of April 3, 2017. The motion was seconded and passed with H. Billings abstaining.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION – FARMERS’ MARKET MANAGER

H. Billings made a motion to approve the payroll authorization request to hire Jennifer Baum as Farmers’ Market Manager, filling a vacancy. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION – DISPATCH

H. Billings made a motion to approve the payroll authorization for Andrew DiPietro as a per diem Dispatcher. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

RELAY FOR LIFE – LIGHT THE TOWN PURPLE

W. Walker indicated that the Relay for Life group is requesting permission to hold kickoff event called Light the Town Purple, to publicize the Relay for Life fundraising event held in Gardner each June. There will be a small ceremony at the Town Common, as well as purple lights illuminating the gazebo and purple ribbons on the town buildings. This event will be held on Wednesday May 10th at 7:30 p.m.

H. Billings made a motion approve the request from the Relay for Life, and hold a Light the Town Purple event. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

ONGOING BUSINESS/MISCELLANEOUS

APPROVE MAY 6, 2017 ANNUAL AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANTS

The Board reviewed and discussed the May 7th Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles.

Representatives from the Support Our Children and Schools (SOCS) parent group were present to discuss funding scenarios for the school budget. The Board discussed the levels of funding being requested vs the amount that the town is able to support. The Selectmen indicated that they will

support the schools Level Services budget, which will be an increase of \$764,398 in the Town's contribution to the schools from the previous fiscal year.

The SOCS group voiced their support for the Prioritized Budget the School Committee certified (\$1,355,877 increase). They indicated that the school requires significant financial contributions from the towns in order to recover from the budget shortfalls, and cuts that have been required in the past.

The Board continued reviewing the warrant articles. H. Billing indicated she would speak to Steve Wallace for clarification on Article 37.

H. Billings made a motion to approve and sign the Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrants. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

REVISE HEALTH INSURANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS

W. Walker indicated that the Personnel Board has reviewed and approved the following change to the Health Insurance Rules and Regulations, which require that an employee must be participating in the Town's health insurance plan prior to retirement to receive health benefits after retirement.

H. Billings made a motion to approve the changes to the Health Insurance Rules and Regulations as recommended by the Personnel Board. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

LAND USE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

W. Walker indicated that the Personnel Board is recommending the approval of the part time position of Land Use Administrative Assistant. This position is part time and would assist both the Building Department and Town Planner with clerical work.

H. Billings made a motion to approve the Land Use Administrative Assistant position and job description as recommended by the Personnel Board. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

James DeLisle, Clerk
(Prepared by S. Lahtinen)