

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

Others Present: Karen Murphy, Steve Wallace, Sam Albert, Kyle Butterfield, Jon Wyman, Ross Barber, Brian Riley, KP Law; Amanda Burke, Sentinel and Enterprise; Doneen Durling, Gardner News; Adam Collette

CALL TO ORDER

H. Billings called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in room 205 of the Town Hall. She announced that the meeting was being recorded by Ashburnham/Westminster Community Access TV and the Sentinel and Enterprise.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPROVALS

WARRANTS

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

02/01/2018 Accounts Payable 31A \$34,120.91

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2018

W. Walker made a motion to approve the minutes of February 5, 2018. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION - FIREFIGHTER

W. Walker made a motion to approve the hiring of Zachary Algarin as a full time Firefighter, filling a vacancy. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

HEARINGS/OTHER SCHEDULED MATTERS

PUBLIC FORUM – OPTIONS FOR REGULATING RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

Steve Wallace and Atty. Brian Riley and the Board discussed the options available to the Town as they apply to the regulation of recreational marijuana sales, cultivation and distribution. Currently the Town has the option to enact a total ban, a ban on retail sales or limit the number of retailers, or to allow the growth, distribution, and retail sale of marijuana with certain restrictions – all of these options would need to be brought to Town Meeting and a ballot vote.

The range of opinions voiced from citizens in the meeting were varied; some in favor and others cautioning against allowing the retail sales without seeing how it pans out in other towns. Additionally urging the Board and Town officials to take their time making this decision. Residents also indicated that they do not want to rule out the option for more tax revenue from these businesses.

The Board indicated that they are not going to be making a decision at this evening's meeting and will take the public input under advisement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Wayne R. Walker, Clerk
(Prepared by S. Lahtinen)