

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

Others Present: Karen Murphy, Stephanie Lahtinen, Julie Belliveau, Melody Smith, Jared Sharp, Julie Costello, Lisa Rochealeau, John Fairbanks, Chris Mossman, Ned LaFortune, Adeniyi Olaiya, USI Consulting Group; Sheila Harrity, Tammy Crockett, Monty Tech

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

APPROVALS

WARRANTS

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

03/29/2018 Accounts Payable 39A \$231,413.24

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2018

W. Walker made a motion to approve the minutes of March 26, 2018. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

APRIL 24, 2018 LOCAL ELECTION WARRANT

W. Walker made a motion to approve and sign the election warrant, including two non-binding questions regarding recreational marijuana. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION – CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

W. Walker made a motion to hire Joshua Knechtel for the position of Cemetery Superintendent, filling a vacancy. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION – VETERANS SERVICES OFFICER

W. Walker made a motion to hire Jared Sharp as Veterans Services Officer. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

INTERMUNCIPAL AGREEMENT WITH HUBBARDSTON AND ASHBURNHAM

W. Walker made a motion to execute the Intermunicipal Agreement for a shared Veterans Services Officer, with Ashburnham and Hubbardston for a term of three years. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

HEARINGS/OTHER SCHEDULED MATTERS

CHAPTER 61 RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL – STATE ROAD EAST

W. Walker made a motion that the Town not exercise its Right of First Refusal on a parcel of property comprised of approximately 1.19 acres and located on State Road East, currently owned by Drucilla Bradenberry and Christopher Mossman. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

MONTY TECH BUDGET PRESENTATION

Sheila Harrity, Superintendent and Tammy Crockett, Business Manager at Monty Tech presented a budget overview for the upcoming school year to the Board. They highlighted the enrollment rate and programs offered at Monty Tech.

OPEB ACTUARIAL VALUATION REVIEW

Representatives from USI Consulting Group and Bartholomew & Co. reviewed the Actuarial Valuation Review, as well as the GASB 75 accounting standard with the Board of Selectmen. The consultants discussed the merit of having an OPEB trust account and how the Town's current OPEB Stabilization Fund could be used to offset the current liability on the books.

ONGOING BUSINESS/MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH INSURANCE MITIGATION FUND

The Board reviewed a memorandum received from the Employee Insurance Advisory Committee requesting financial relief for Town employees due to cost increases which will be borne by the employees as a result of recent plan design changes in the Town's group health insurance plans. In accordance with statutory provisions contained in Chapter 32B of the General Laws, a portion of the Health Insurance Mitigation fund created with cost savings realized by the Town as a result of the changes in the health insurance plans must be returned to participating employees.

It was voted on a motion by W. Walker and seconded by J. DeLisle to grant employees two monthly premium holidays, in July and December of 2018. Although the financial impact to the Town of these premium holidays will significantly exceed the statutorily required mitigation, it was agreed this level of mitigation will allow for an easier transition to the new plans. It was also noted that this mitigation will apply equally to all participating employees, including those employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

The motion was passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE ANNUAL AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANTS

The Board read and reviewed the warrant articles for the May 5, 2018 Special and Annual Town Meetings. W. Walker made a motion to approve and execute the May 5, 2018 Special and Annual Town Meeting warrants. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

SET BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board set the following meeting schedule:

June 4 and June 18

July 9 and July 23

August 6 and August 20

September 10 and September 24

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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