

Members Present: John F. Fairbanks, Wayne R. Walker, Heather M. Billings

Others Present: Karen Murphy, Stephanie Lahtinen, David Worthley, Don Barry, Ann Johnson, Ross Barber, Keith Harding, Jim Delisle

CALL TO ORDER

J. Fairbanks 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPROVALS

MINUTES

W. Walker made a motion to approve the minutes of March 14, 2016 as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

WARRANTS

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

March 15, 2016	Accounts Payable 16-38A	\$212,697.61
March 17, 2016	Payroll 16-38B	\$166,796.30
March 17, 2016	Deduction 16-38C	\$144,555.08

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

LITTLE LEAGUE (NOW BABE RUTH BASEBALL)– REPLACE STORAGE SHED

D. Worthley requested the permission of the Selectmen to remove and replace one of the storage sheds at the baseball field on South Street. The replacement shed will be built by Monty Tech and will measure 12'x20' and will have two levels. Mr. Worthley also requested that the town waive the building permit fees associated with this project.

W. Walker made a motion to approve the removal of the small storage shed and construction of a new 12x20 shed, as well as to authorize the Building Department to waive all building permit fees associated with this project. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION WARRANT

W. Walker made a motion to approve the Annual Town Election Warrant for April 26, 2016. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT – COUNCIL ON AGING

W. Walker made a motion to appoint Ann Johnson as a member to the Council on Aging. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

POLICE CHIEF CONTRACT

W. Walker made a motion for the Board to sign and execute an employment contract with Chief Albert for a term of three years. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

POSTAGE MACHINE LEASE AGREEMENT

W. Walker made a motion for the Chairman to sign a five year contract to lease a new Pitney Bowes postage machine for use in the Town Hall. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

ONGOING BUSINESS

FY17 BUDGET/WARRANT ARTICLE REVIEW

- *General Review*

The Board discussed the budget for the Building Department. Noting that there has been a significant increase in the volume of building permits in the last couple years, it was suggested that consideration should be given to increasing the hours of the Building Commissioner from part time to full time. It was agreed to continue this discussion at the next meeting.

H. Billings indicated that the Crocker Pond Committee does not have a firm quote for the sidewalk project in their budget, but will bring a firm number to the next Board meeting.

The Selectmen identified a number of articles that could be combined.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSED PROPOSED CHANGES TO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AGREEMENT

The Board of Selectmen discussed the changes to the Regional School District Amendment, specifically the proposed removal of the language referencing the “alternate assessment method”.

W. Walker indicated that he would like that language to remain in the agreement in order to acknowledge the different methods of assessment.

Further discussion followed. The agreement will be passed on to the Advisory Board for their review and approval.

REVIEW GENERAL BYLAWS

- *Taxicabs*

The Board discussed the taxicab bylaw and regulations as presented.

H. Billings indicated that the town should look into adding ridesharing through services like Uber and Lyft to this bylaw as well.

The Board referred the bylaw to the Bylaw Review Committee with their comments.

- *Garage Sales*

The Board reviewed the proposed changes and referred the bylaw to the Bylaw Review Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

W. Walker moved that the board enter Executive Session at 6:41 p.m. to discuss pending litigation and that the chairman declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the town's litigating position. H. Billings seconded the motion. Mr. Walker indicated that the meeting would adjourn directly following Executive Session. The motion was passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned directly from executive session at 7:55 p.m.

Heather M. Billings, Clerk
(Prepared by S. Lahtinen)