

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

**Others Present:** Karen Murphy, Stephanie Lahtinen, John Bowen, Michael Fortin, Jon Wyman, Doneen Durling, Ross Barber

**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**

J. Fairbanks thanked Fitchburg Welding for the restorations they are completing on two town cannons.

**APPROVALS**

MINUTES

W. Walker made a motion to approve the minutes of April 4, 2016 as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

WARRANTS

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

April 7, 2016    16-41A Accounts Payable        \$931,635.87

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**ONGOING BUSINESS/MISCELLANEOUS**

FY17 BUDGET/GENERAL REVIEW

The Board is unable to vote on Articles 6 and 7 relating to the regional school budget as they have not received an updated and recertified copy of the budget to date.

The Board discussed restoring the position of Building Commissioner from part time to full time. The number of permits being processed through the building department has significantly increased.

The Board unanimously agreed that the Building Commissioner position should be changed to full time, and the proposed budget will reflect this change.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON TOWN MEETING ZONING ARTICLES

J. Fairbanks discussed the changes being proposed for the zoning bylaws. He indicated that all of these changes are available on the Planning Department page of the town website.

W. Walker made a motion to support Articles 36-39 on the Town Meeting Warrant. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The board unanimously agreed to support Articles 36-39 on the Town Meeting Warrant.

FINALIZE/APPROVE TOWN MEETING WARRANT

W. Walker made a motion to approve the Town Meeting Warrant as printed. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

VOTE ON DRAFT REGIONAL SCHOOL AGREEMENT

The Board discussed the proposed changes to the Regional School Agreement, however W. Walker

indicated he cannot support the changes made unless the language referencing the alternate assessment method remains in the agreement.

H. Billings indicated that she researched regional school agreements on the Department of Education website. She suggested that the agreement include the following language,

*“Each member town’s share of the operating cost should be calculated using the statutory assessment method in a manner subject to all provisions of Mass General Laws and the Code of Mass Regulation; unless mutually agreed upon by both communities to use the alternative assessment method as described in 603 CMR 41.05 s.2A & C.”*

H. Billings and the Board discussed the proposed language; W. Walker agreed that this language would effectively show that there are two methods of assessment.

W. Walker made a motion to accept the Draft Regional School Agreement with the language as presented by H. Billings. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session needed at this meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned directly from executive session at 6:35 p.m.

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