Present: Joseph E. Flanagan, Wayne R. Walker, and Heather M. Billings

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Office at Town Hall. He announced that the meeting was being broadcast live and recorded by Ashburnham Westminster Community Access TV. He also noted that Kerry O'Brien from the Gardner News was recording the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- •The Board encourages residents to get out and vote tomorrow, January 29, 2013. Voting will take place at Westminster Elementary School from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- •The Board wishes to commend Officer Jeffrey Shampine and Office Jason Wetherbee for their handling of a highly volatile situation on January 14, 2013.
- •The Board wishes to commend Office Kent Benson for his actions while assisting the Princeton Police Department and the Westminster and Princeton Fire Departments on November 24, 2012 at Paradise Pond.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS/MINUTES

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve the minutes for December 3, 2012. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board members reviewed and approved the following warrants:

January 14, 2013	Payroll #43	\$ 182,973.57
	Accounts Payable #42	\$ 20,499.62
January 15, 2013	Deduction #43D	\$ 164,797.14
January 22, 2013	Accounts Payable #44	\$ 501,264.95
January 24, 2013	Accounts Payable #46	\$ 977,268.27
	Payroll #45	\$ 175,209.75

OLD TOWN HALL NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board appoint Thomas Connell II to the Old Town Hall Needs Assessment Committee. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Billings moved that the Board authorize Joseph Flanagan to be a voting member (BOS Representative) of the Old Town Hall Needs Assessment Committee. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT – SAFE GRANT APPLICATION – Student Awareness

Mr. Walker moved that the Board authorize Chief MacAloney to execute the agreement with the Commonwealth for the \$4,625 SAFE grant award. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT

Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board send a letter of support for the Historical Society who is applying for a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission for the renovation of the Upton School. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

BORROWING ~ SENIOR CENTER DESIGN AND WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

Treasurer/Collector Melody Treasurer/Collector Melody Gallant was on hand to request the Board's approval of a BAN in the amount of \$733,500. She further explained that this borrowing is for a Senior Center Design BAN in the amount of \$133,500 (approved under Article 39 of the May 5, 2012 Annual town Meeting) and Water Main Replacement BAN in the amount of \$600,000 (approved under Article 30 of the May 5, 2012 Annual Town Meeting).

Mr. Walker moved that the Board authorize the borrowing of \$733,500 with United Bank at an interest rate of .49%. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MIT ROAD RACE

Stefanie Sylik was on hand representing the MIT Road Race. She explained that MIT has received approval from all the various departments and was requesting that the Board of Selectmen approve their request to hold the MIT Road Race on Sunday, March31, 2013, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Board indicated that they were in favor of the race but had concerns over the proposed date of Easter Sunday. The Board then suggested they hold the race on Saturday, March 30, 2013. Ms. Sylik indicated she would have to discuss this with the other individuals who were organizing the race and get back to the Board.

Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board approve the MIT Road Race as presented with an amendment to the date. He further moved that the Board approve the date of Saturday, March 30, 3013 for the MIT road race subject to the approval of appropriate Departments. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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REVIEW PLANNING PRIORITIES

Town Planner Stephen Wallace reviewed the Planning Department's priorities for 2013 with the Board of Selectmen. Priorities included the following; Master Plan, Earth Removal/Fill Bylaw and Regulations, Planning Board Caseload, Economic Development Committee, Grants, and Transit Issues.

MASSDEP LETTER RE: WACHUSETT COMMUTER RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT

Mr. Flanagan read a letter addressed to Martin Suuberg, Regional Director of Mass DEP Central Regional Office regarding the Wachusett Commuter Rail Extension Project – Westminster Layover Facility Noise Study.

Mr. Walker moved that the Board authorize the Chairman to sign the letter addressed to the Mass DEP Central Regional Office dated January 28, 2013 requesting a review of the finding of the noise study conducted by KM Chng Environmental, Inc. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SCHEDULE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Mr. Walker moved to schedule a Special Town Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at the Westminster Elementary School to authorize the expenditure of insurance proceeds for the replacement of a cruiser that was totaled in an accident and for the repair of the Fire Department ladder truck, the cost of which will exceed \$100,000. MGL Ch. 39, s.23 requires town meeting approval for the expenditure of insurance proceeds in excess of \$20,000. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve and sign the February 13, 2013 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGREEMENT/EASEMENT - 100 TOWN FARM ROAD

Mr. Walker moved that the Board approve and sign the settlement agreement with John and Diane Walters for purposes of an easement. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACCEPT WESTMINSTER BUSINESS PARK BOND

Mr. Walker moved that the Board accept the \$125,000 Bond from Westminster Business Park pursuant to Town Counsel's review and approval. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FY2012 AUDIT – EXIT CONFERENCE

A representative from Roselli, Clark & Associates was on hand to review the financial statements and management letter for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. The Town had a clean audit and was in good financial standing.

FY14 BUDGET/WARRANT DISCUSSION WITH ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory Board Chair Jim DeLisle and the BOS reviewed articles.

The board agreed to put a placeholder on the request from Ranor requesting to enter into a TIF agreement.

The Board agreed to invite the Mass Office of Business Development in to discuss TIFs at their next meeting. Ranor will be invited in at a future meeting to discuss their request.

The Board agreed that at this point, non-money articles will be considered but money articles will no longer be accepted.

The Board agreed to invite the Board of Health to come in at their next meeting to discuss the proposed article for a Community Septic Management Program (grant borrowing).

7:47 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Walker moved that the Board enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining; further that the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the body; and that the Board adjourn directly from executive session. Ms. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned from executive session at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather M. Billings, Clerk (Prepared by B. Kazan)