

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

## **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

J. Fairbanks indicated two portions of the minutes that needed clarification: the annual cost of the new Building Department software and the reference to adjusting the fuel line items across the budgets of all Town departments.

W. Walker made a motion to approve the minutes of March 7, 2016 with the requested changes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### WARRANTS

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

March 10, 2016	Deduction 16-36C	\$147,527.69
March 13, 2016	Accounts Payable 16-37A	\$257,797.62

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION – IT SPECIALIST

W. Walker made a motion to approve the hiring of Jonathan Maxwell as per diem Computer Information Systems Specialist. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

W. Walker made a motion for the chairman to sign a disclosure agreement, in compliance with MGL Chapter 28A for the hiring of Mr. Maxwell, and to approve his exemption from s.20. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

### OLD TOWN HALL SENIOR HOUSING COST-OUT OPTION

S. Wallace was present to discuss this topic. Mr. Wallace indicated that in speaking with the consultants at Agricola Corporation regarding the Old Town Hall options they came to a conclusion that it would not be in the town's best financial and managerial interests to convert the building to senior housing on their own. It would be a more effective measure to roll this option into the RFP for the sale of the building.

The Board discussed this option and unanimously agreed with Mr. Wallace and the Agricola consultants.

### FY2017 BUDGET/WARRANT ARTICLE REVIEW (DRAFT LIST OF ARTICLES ATTACHED)

#### *Library*

Nicholas Langhart, Library Director and the Library Board of Trustees were present to discuss their budget.

N. Langhart indicated that the budget for this year reflects a 4.19% increase in order to meet contractual obligations, as well as the municipal appropriation requirement. He stated that he has brought down the cost of several line items to offset the cost of these increases.

*Department of Public Works*

Josh Hall, DPW Director, and members of the Public Works Commission were present to discuss their budget.

J. Fairbanks and J. Hall discussed the current cost of fuel, and how he has changed his fuel line item to reflect this. Mr. Hall offered to share his calculations with the Board and Town Administrator to help determine a cost per gallon for use by all town departments.

J. Fairbanks read Article 28 into the record. The Board and the DPW Commission members discussed this article as it pertains to the conditions on Bathrick Road. Lorraine Emerson indicated that the DPW would like to withdraw this article from the Annual Town Meeting warrant because there were unforeseen easements reflected in the proposal received from the consultant. L. Emerson stated that the DPW Commission will be requesting an article on the Fall Town Meeting warrant for this project.

*General*

H. Billings indicated she would like to withdraw Article 22, for the electrical work at Crocker Pond. The Crocker Pond committee will be working with Monty Tech for this project and paying for the costs directly from their budget.

J. Fairbanks indicated that he wants all town departments to adjust their fuel line items to more accurately reflect the current cost of fuel.

The Board discussed the Board of Health articles related to mosquito control. It is the opinion of the Selectmen that the Board of Health needs to bring a recommendation to Town Meeting. Further discussion on how to word this article is needed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

REFER ZONING ARTICLES TO PLANNING BOARD

S. Wallace and the Selectmen discussed the proposed zoning articles.

J. Fairbanks suggested potential edits to the zoning articles.

W. Walker made a motion to refer the zoning articles to the Planning Board and request that they hold the required public hearing prior to town meeting voting on these articles. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session at this meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

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