Present: John F. Fairbanks, Laila J. Michaud, Joseph E. Flanagan

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fairbanks called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 confirmed with those present that no other party was taking an audio or video recording of the meeting.

## APPROVAL OF WARRANTS/MINUTES

Ms. Michaud moved that the Board approve the regular session minutes of February 28 and March 7, 2011 as printed. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board members reviewed and approved the following warrants:

March 14, 2011	Accounts Payable #56	\$ 99,715.93
	Payroll #57	\$151,811.68

# PAYROLL CHANGE REQUEST

Ms. Michaud moved that the Board approve a Payroll Change Request for temporarily filling the Children's Librarian position due to a medical leave of absence. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### BORROWING – SOUTH STREET PROJECT

Treasurer/Collector Melody Gallant was on hand to request the Board approve a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) for land acquisition of the South Street Project in the amount of \$350,000.

Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board approve the request from Treasurer/Collector Melody Gallant to borrow \$350,000 from People's United with an interest rate of 1.04% for the South Street Project. Ms. Michaud seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### MIT ROAD RACE

Zach Labry was in attendance to request the Board approve the MIT Collegiate Bean Pot Road Race being held on Saturday, April 2, 2011 from 8 AM to 5:30 PM.

Ms. Michaud moved that the Board approve the request for the MIT Collegiate Bean Pot Road Race. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## FARMERS' MARKET FEES

Agricultural Commissioner Andy Hertel was on hand to request that the Board approve the recommendations of the Agricultural Commission to increase the Farmers' Market fees as follows; Per Diem ~ \$5 (currently \$4), Annual Membership ~ \$100 (currently \$75). The Agricultural Commission is offering a \$25 discount for the annual membership if the vendor attends the training session scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board approve the requested increase in the Farmers' Market fees. Ms. Michaud seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## RATIFICATION OF VOTE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board officially ratify a vote made in executive session on March 14, 2011, to approve the collective bargaining agreement with the Firefighters' Union. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## SENIOR CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board appoint William Antoniac and Peter Normandin to the Senior Center Building Committee. Ms. Michaud seconded the motion.

Mr. Fairbanks also recommended that the Board approve an increase of members to nine for the Senior Center Building Committee.

Mr. Flanagan moved the motion as amended. Ms. Michaud seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

# BOARD OF HEALTH REGIONALIZATION

BOH Agent Elizabeth (Wibby) Swedberg was on hand to discuss her meeting with the State regarding regionalization. She stated that the State offered grants for regionalizing Board of Health Departments for various issues such as inspections services, mental health issues, and follow up of communicable diseases (sharing nurses).

She stated that the Board of Health Commissioners had agreed to be an interested party but not be included as an applicant.

The Board of Selectmen encouraged the Board of Health to continue to stay active.

#### **FY12 BUDGET REVIEWS**

BOH Agent Elizabeth (Wibby) Swedberg indicated that the FY12 proposed BOH budget is level funded.

Fire Chief Brent MacAloney stated that the proposed Fire Department's overall budget would increase .5%. The increase was due in part to a 1% COLA and increases in the fuel cost. He also indicated that the Ambulance budget would increase 1% and that there was no change in the Emergency Management budget.

Mr. Fairbanks suggested to the Advisory Board that they budget for a fuel article for \$4.50 a gallon and agree to deplete the balance in the prior year's article before using the FY12 article.

# SCHOOL ASSESSMENT DISCUSSION

Mr. Fairbanks explained that at last week's Tri-Board meeting with the School Committee, the Ashburnham Board of Selectmen proposed a FY12 80/20 split. Westminster would pay \$259,000 and Ashburnham would pay \$63,000 of the \$322,557 difference between the two assessment methods.

The Board asked Mrs. Murphy to contact legal counsel to get an answer regarding the question – if a joint town meeting is required would it end up being a Statutory Assessment?

The Board decided to wait for Town Counsel's input and finalize their decision at the next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2011.

## **EARLY RETIREMENT**

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board of Selectmen vote to grant an Early Retirement Incentive to one patrolman in the Police Department, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2010. Ms. Michaud seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fairbanks mentioned that three employees expressed an interest in participating in the program. Two of the employees held positions that would have to be replaced immediately, which represented little to no cost saving to the Town.

#### CROCKER POND RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Board asked Mrs. Murphy to invite the Crocker Pond Committee in to attend an April meeting to discuss the proposed Rules and Regulations.

#### PLACEHOLDER – SUPPLEMENTAL UTILITIES/GAS ARTICLE

The Board agreed to put an Annual Town Meeting placeholder article for supplemental utilities/gas which should be combined with last year's article.

## ADDITIONAL ARTICLE

Ms. Michaud also requested that there be an article for handicap accessible front doors at the Town Hall.

## MEETINGS WITH ADVISORY BOARD

The Board agreed to meet with the Advisory Board on March  $28^{th}$  to discuss the FY12 warrant and on April  $4^{th}$  to finalize the warrant.

#### 8:31 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Fairbanks moved that the Board enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to conduct negotiations with nonunion personnel; further, that the Chair declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town, and to adjourn directly from executive session. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned from executive session at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph E. Flanagan, Clerk (Prepared by B. Kazan)