

Members present: Christopher A. Rucho Patrick J. Crowley  
Siobhan M. Bohnson John W. Hadley  
Barur R. Rajeshkumar

Mr. Rucho convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

There is no one present for this agenda item.

**Read and acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Motion Mr. Hadley to approve the regular session meeting minutes of June 22, 2016, seconded by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

Motion Ms. Bohnson to approve the regular session meeting minutes of September 21, 2016, seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Hadley to approve the executive session meeting minutes of September 21, 2016, seconded by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar to approve the regular session meeting minutes of September 28, 2016, seconded by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

**Brian Adams, NFP – Board vote to accept Senior plan renewals**

Mr. Adams reports that the senior plans renew annually in January. We have three senior products; one medicare supplement through Harvard Pilgrim paired with a medicare part D prescription drug offered through Aetna and two medicare part C plans, one offered by Fallon and one Tufts. Harvard Pilgrim Medicare Enhance had no benefit changes, a four tier prescription drug schedule and that came in with \$205.77, Part D was \$143.95 for a total of \$349.72. On Medicare Part D we were at \$134.85 and in at came in at \$143.95. There are some changes to the medical plan, but no impact to the member. The current rate is \$334.63 and the renewal rate is \$349.72, an increase of 4.5%. This will be January 2017 through December 2017. For 2017 Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount Part D if you are now earn over a certain amount you have an addition charged billed to the member by medicare, less than 5% have this adjustment. Medicare Part C renewal from Fallon senior plan has 34 members. Current rate is \$322 and the renewal rate is \$349, a 8.4% increase. With the increase there will be mandated changes to the plan. There will be increases in inpatient copay, skilled nursing facility and surgical day care. They did ask for some options and Fallon provide an additional offerings to reduce the copayment but it. Tufts has 62 members, and the rate came in at \$307.50, a 10.4% increase. Driving a lot of the increase is pharmacy trends. They asked for three different plan offerings from Tufts. The first would a have reduced the rate to \$301.50 changes in prescription copayments, the second to \$292, with a few more changes.

The Insurance Advisory Committee voted to renew as is for all three products. January 2016 to December 2016 the Harvard Pilgrim member monthly cost is \$334.63, town pays \$200.78 and member pays \$133.85. It will be \$209.83 for the town and \$139.86 for the member, a \$6.00 increase and there are 73 enrolled in Harvard Pilgrim. Fallon has 34 participants and they were at \$257.60 for the town and \$64.40 for the member. For January 2017 through December 2017 the town pays \$279.20 and the member pays \$69.80. For the second Fallon option it would be January through December of 2017 the town pays \$270.40 and the member pays \$67.60. Tufts plan rates are lower with better benefits

than the GIC. Ms. Scheipers asked if we find seniors getting off the Tufts plan and going with another option could the carrier drop us? Brian advised no, and the IAC will be looking at potentially eliminating some of the plan options. We have 169 participants in all of the plans. Mr. Rucho feels that the \$50 emergency room charge on the Harvard Pilgrim plan is reasonable. It was noted that if you are admitted that copay gets waived. Overall it is a \$15,000 increase through the end of June for the town, total active plans. Ms. Scheipers feels we owe Mr. Adams a great deal of thanks as he was very successful in getting Harvard Pilgrim to come down on their rate.

Motion Mr. Crowley to accept the Insurance Advisory Committee's recommendation and that we renew the three plans as presented, seconded by Mr. Hadley, all in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Payroll & Payable Warrants – review and vote to approve current warrants

Motion Mr. Crowley to vote to approve payroll and payable warrants from September 22, 2016 through October 5, 2016, seconded by Mr. Hadley, all in favor.

2. Assign Motions for October 17, 2016 Semi-Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Rucho will read the motions for Articles 1, 8, 13 and 18; Ms. Bohnson will read the motions for Articles 6, 11 and 16; Mr. Rajeshkumar will read the motions for Articles 5, 10 and 15; Mr. Crowley will read the motions for Articles 7, 12 and 17; Mr. Hadley will read the motions for Articles 2, 9, and 14. Community Preservation Committee member George Bernardin will read the motion for Article 3 and the Capital Investment Board will read the motion for Article 4.

With regard to Article 15, changing the position of Town Clerk to appointed rather than elected, current Town Clerk Kim Hopewell provided a letter stating that she is in favor of the change. Mr. Hadley suggested including the letter on the power point presentation and Ms. Bohnson suggested it be a handout at town meeting. Ms. Scheipers reports that the Personnel Board did endorse the change and we will include that on the screen as well.

Motion Mr. Hadley for the Board of Selectmen to endorse the article, seconded by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

Mr. Scheipers reports that we are waiting to get Free Cash certified. She is planning on using that as a funding source for the capital item and some of the other articles. Then we will make a decision as to whether we should use raised and appropriate or Free Cash. We have not received the reimbursement yet on the sidewalk grant so the Department of Revenue will reduce its amount if we do not get it by the end of September. Ms. Bohnson noted that in the past if questions came up we had certain people prepared to respond to them. Mr. Crowley thinks it is important when we move an article to give an explanation. Ms. Scheipers will be prepared to provide an explanation. However, if a member of the Board would like to provide the information she will speak with them.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

1. Municipal Modernization Bill impacts

Ms. Scheipers explained that the Municipal Modernization Bill was a piece of legislation

passed to clean up some processes built into the laws on how we do day to day operations of the town. We are trying to find a more accurate summary of all the different changes and she will work with staff

to insure that all offices impacted will be doing things appropriately. MMA and DOR are scheduling numerous trainings on the topic.

## 2. Public Records Law Impacts

Open Meeting Law changes go into effect on January 1. It changes the way we must respond to records requests, and our approach to document management. We may need to put more documentation online. Ms. Scheipers will be attending a training in a few weeks and she will bring back some good summary sheets. She will also have to decide who will be the Records Access Officer. It is typically the Town Clerk and it may be a good idea to assign someone at the police department as well.

## 3. Green Communities Eligibility

Ms. Scheipers explained that we previously hadn't given much consideration to apply because of the complication that exists that we have our own Municipal Lighting Plant. Because of that it provides additional criteria. By having three residents in West Boylston who are customers of National Grid we eliminate that additional criteria. Now we could give careful consideration to becoming a Green Community. It requires zoning to be changed and commitments in terms of energy reduction over a period of years. If this is something the Board would like to consider she will pursue it. Mr. Hadley asked how many towns are Green Communities. Ms. Scheipers noted that the number is high enough that the grants are more competitive and the amounts have decreased. Mr. Rucho asked what the advantage would be.

We would accept the stretch code and it requires energy efficiency and reduces energy use within town buildings. It is not easy to achieve but many look at it as the right thing to do. Ms. Bohnson would like an idea of what the towns around us have achieved and now that we have done the energy upgrade on our building, would it be harder for us to achieve additional savings. She would like to know what towns around us have achieved who have their own municipal light plant. If the Board is interested, Ms. Scheipers would put together a small working group. Mr. Crowley feels it would be important to ask the ESCO people what they think. If this were five years ago and we hadn't done the project it would be different. He doesn't know if it is feasible.

Ms. Scheipers explained that the first step is an energy audit as we would need to know if we could achieve the savings. She also agrees with Mr. Crowley that it would be difficult to meet that criteria. Mr. Rucho pointed out that our Municipal Light Plant offers low energy rate. Mr. Hadley noted that a lot of towns have purchased electric cars. Ms. Scheipers advised that for non-emergency vehicles you have to commit to buying more. Heavy equipment and emergency vehicles are exempt. Mr. Hadley would like to know what kind of effort it would take. Mr. Rucho would like to know what the advantage would be for the residents. Ms. Scheipers suggested having a discussion with the

Municipal Lighting Plant. She also noted that she attended the MMA Legislative Breakfast last Friday and they had a lot of information on the Municipal Modernization Bill and the Public Records Law updates. They are quite concerned about FY17 tax revenues being down as they were also down in FY16. If they trend continues, we could see 9c cuts to the state budget. At the meeting they were told that the cuts would be special earmarked projects and not to local aid. The state is also considering a millionaires tax which could be on the ballot in November of 2018. It would be a 4% additional tax on wages over one million dollars.

**FISP UPDATE:**

1.Informational Sessions: Oct 6 – Hillside Village 2:30, Oct 8 – Christ Lutheran Church 10:00 Am, Oct 11 – Beaman Library 6:30, Oct 13 – Angell Brook Village 2:00 and Oct 15 – Town Hall 10:00 am

Absentee ballots are available from the Town Clerk for the October 18 special town election.

Ms. Scheipers reports that we had the bid opening today for the police station project. Seven bids were received, are being reviewed at this time, and we will get that information out at the information sessions and on the website.

2.Invoices: Reinhardt Associates #5 - \$129,000

Motion Mr. Hadley to approve Reinhardt Invoice #5, seconded by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

**APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS:**

1.Consider voting to appoint Mary Ellen Cocks as Deputy Warden for October 18, 2016 special election, as recommended by the Town Clerk

Motion Mr. Crowley to approve the appointment, seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor.

2. Concurrence on the appointment of Gary Flynn to the Earth Removal Board as the designee of the Water District effective October 5, 2016 for a term to expire on June 30, 2017

Motion Mr. Crowley to concur with the appointment, seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor.

3. Resignation from Kristina Pedone, Full Member, Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Rucho noted the resignation and thanked Ms. Pedone for her service. David Femia, Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals asked if it would be possible to elevate the current associate member to the full member seat as he now only has four full members. Per the policy on appointments, the Board will post the vacancy for two weeks to see if any residents have an interest. It will be included on the October 19<sup>th</sup> agenda.

**MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1.October 17, 2016, 6:00 p.m. – special meeting Board of Selectmen

2.October 17, 2016, 7:00 p.m. – Semi-Annual Town Meeting Middle/High School

3.October 18, 2016, noon until 8:00 p.m. – Special Town Election – Our Lady of Good Counsel

Mr. Hadley announced that there will be a special FISP on Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. here

at town hall prior to the information meeting session scheduled for 10:00 at Christ Lutheran Church.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SELECTMENS REPORTS:**

Mr. Hadley reports that the Malden Street paving project has been started.

Ms. Bohnson thanked all the people who participated in the scarecrow contest. She noted that the weather was not the best but it is a great event which brings added color to our common. She also thanked Kristina Pedone for her long-time service on the Zoning Board of Appeal, noting that she did a great job and will be missed.

Ms. Scheipers clarified the process for voting the additional funds for the police station project. Regardless of what the vote is at town meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>, the election will still be held on October 18. The town could consider scheduling another special town meeting should it pass at the polls and not on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Motion Ms. Bohnson at 7:53 p.m. to enter into executive session under the provisions of MGL Ch 30a, Section 21(A), Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares, seconded by Mr. Crowley. The Chair so declared. Roll call vote: Mr. Rajeshkumar yes, Mr. Hadley yes, Mr. Rucho yes, Ms. Bohnson yes, Mr. Crowley yes. The session will be to discuss DPW negotiations and the Board will not be going back into open session.

Motion Mr. Crowley at 8:10 p.m. for the Board to come out of executive session, second by Mr. Hadley. Roll call vote: Mr. Crowley yes, Ms. Bohnson yes, Mr. Hadley yes, Mr. Rucho yes, Mr. Rajeshkumar yes.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Ms. Bohnson at 8:10 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: October 19, 2016

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Nancy E. Lucier, Municipal Assistant

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Christopher A. Rucho, Chairman

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Siobhan M. Bohnson, Vice Chairman

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Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Clerk

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Patrick J. Crowley, Selectman

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John W. Hadley, Selectman