First Selectman Joyce Okonuk called the meeting to order at 3:10pm. Selectman John Bendoraitis and Administrative Assistant Patti Handy were also present; Selectman Linda Finelli was absent. Public Works Foreman, Tom Conley and Town Planner, Phil Chester were also present. Audience: 0.

Minutes:

2.1 Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2011 Regular Meeting, amended as follows: Item 6.10 under New Business should read “Bendoraitis proposed installing wireless network at the Town Hall…” Vote: Yes, unanimous.

2.2 Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2011 Special Meeting. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

2.3 Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2011 Special Meeting. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

2.4 Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2011 Special Meeting. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

2.5 Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2011 Special Meeting. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

3.0 Phil Chester, Town Planner was present to request a waiver from the bidding ordinance in order to hire Rhonda Withington as Market Master again for the Farmer’s Market for the 2011 season, at the cost of $5,000.00. Motion made by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to waive the Competitive Bidding Ordinance requirements to hire Rhonda Withington as Market Master for the Farmer’s Market for the second year as an independent contractor, due to the fact that she is experienced in this area and is highly recommended based on her performance last year. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

4.0 Tom Conley, Public Works Foreman, was present to request that the Selectmen consider adopting an ordinance that would give local contractors preference on bids. Conley presented examples of similar ordinances that have been adopted by other area towns. One concept is that if a local contractor’s bid is within 10% of the lowest bid, that they would be given the option to meet the lowest bid. Okonuk and Bendoraitis both were in favor of looking into the suggestion, and will gather more information on the ordinances that other towns have adopted and bring it to a future meeting for discussion. No action.

5.0 Conley and the Selectmen also discussed Capital Project requests for FY 2011-12 for the Public Works Department (PWD). Conley presented a list of major equipment currently in use by the PWD, including a projected timeframe for replacement. It was agreed that the following requests and approximate costs would be presented to the Board of Finance: Two plow trucks: $280,000.00, one pay loader: $130,000.00, one pick-up truck: $35,000.00 and one wood-chipper: $20,000.00. Rather than replacing the mobile sweeper the Selectmen agreed that the PWD should look in to hiring a service for that purpose. Conley also requested that the Selectmen strongly consider the need for a salt shed. Other requests that were discussed included two-way radio upgrades, treatment of Lake Williams, and fees and revenues from the Transfer Station. Selectmen will request an update form the Solid Waste Commission. No action.

6.0 Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to authorize the Public Works Foreman to solicit bids for the sale of a used dump truck body at the Town Garage. Vote: Yes, unanimous.
7.0  Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to re-appoint Howard Wayland and Robert Parker to the Cemetery Commission, terms to end on 2/1/2014. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

8.0  Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to re-appoint Nick Poppiti, Laura Davidson and Alexis Hussey to the Recreation Commission, terms to expire on 2/1/2014.

9.0  Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to re-appoint Donna LaFontaine, Jane Cady and Geri McCaw to the Commission on Aging. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

10.0 Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to authorize the payment of $500.00 to Quasar Enterprises, LLC for the development of online recreation registration program, funds to come from TIP account #208-520-520. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

11.0 Motion made by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to adjourn at 4:20. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce R. Okonuk, First Selectman