

**TOWN OF WINCHESTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Monday, January 25, 2016
Record**

Chairman Lance R. Grenzeback called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM in the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room located in Town Hall. Present were Vice Chairman James A. Johnson, III, Selectman Stephen L. Powers, Selectman Michael Bettencourt and Selectman E. James Whitehead. Also present were Town Manager Richard C. Howard and Town Counsel Wade M. Welch.

OPENING

*Motion: That the Board of Selectmen adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters related to Contract Negotiations: Winchester North - MGL Chapter 30A §21a(6); Contract Negotiations: Hospital PILOT - MGL Chapter 30A §21a(6); and Contract Negotiations: NStar d/b/a Eversource Energy - MGL Chapter 30A §21a(6) where an open meeting discussion may have a detrimental effect on negotiating position of the public body, as declared by the Chairman.
Whitehead – Bettencourt
By Roll Call Vote: Whitehead, Bettencourt, Powers, Johnson, Grenzeback VOTED.

*Motion: That the Board of Selectmen adjourn from Executive Session to Public Session, not to return to Executive Session.
Whitehead – Bettencourt
By Roll Call Vote: Whitehead, Bettencourt, Powers, Johnson, Grenzeback VOTED.

Notification of Meetings and Hearings

- ∫ Wednesday, January 27, 2016 – Eversource Project Informational Session – Lincoln Elementary School Auditorium – 7:00 PM
- ∫ Monday, February 1, 2016 – Board of Selectmen – Budget Summit Session
- ∫ Monday, February 8, 2016 – Board of Selectmen – Regular Session
- ∫ Thursday, February 11, 2016 – Eversource Project Informational Session – Lincoln Elementary School Auditorium – 7:00 PM
- ∫ Monday, February 22, 2016 – Board of Selectmen – Regular Session

Chairman's Comments

Chairman Grenzeback informed the audience that the MBTA has published a new draft commuter rail schedule and that schedule indicates that the Town of Winchester will be losing one commuter train to Boston. One train will leave Winchester at 8:28 AM and the second at 8:48 AM. A hearing on the proposed changes will be held in the Woburn City Hall on Monday, February 8 at 6:00 PM. The MBTA is also proposing a fare increase and the local hearing on this issue will be held in Malden High School Auditorium on Wednesday, January 27th at 6:00 PM.

Selectmen's Comments and Non-Docket Business

Selectman Powers offered thanks to the public for their interest in the 40B Project on Cambridge Street and the Eversource transmission line proposal. He indicated that the comments received show that the public is paying attention.

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Vice Chairman Johnson noted that he has also received telephone calls about the Eversource transmission line proposal and urged the public to attend meetings scheduled for each line. He also informed the audience that the Winton Club is holding its annual Cabaret this week.

TOWN MANAGER COMMENTS / REPORTS

Town Manager reported that he attended the MMA Conference held in Boston this past weekend during which he met with colleagues throughout the Commonwealth.

Land Appraisal

Town Manager informed the Board that a series of interested property owners have come forward to express interest in Town-owned pieces of land on either side of Main Street from Skillings Road to Swanton Street. He explained that in order to consider whether this is a worthwhile consideration for Town Meeting, an appraisal of these parcels is needed. He informed the Board that the request this evening is for the board to authorize management to identify the appropriate accounts from which to pay for the appraisal services. The original thought was that approximately \$4,000 would be needed, however additional requests have come forward therefore the request is that the Board authorize \$8,000 to complete the appraisal work.

Town Manager informed the Board that three lot owners have asked for consideration on parcels that the Town owns, not all adjacent or contiguous on the Woburn, 805 Main Street, 743 Main Street and one other, have asked that consideration be given to selling some of the remnant Loop parcels.

Vice Chairman Johnson questioned whether the funds utilized for the appraisal would be returned to the appropriate funding mechanism once the parcel(s) were sold. Town Manager indicated that this might be possible, depositing the remaining sale proceeds into the General Fund.

*Motion: That the Board of Selectmen authorize staff to conduct a land appraisal for property on Main Street as indicated, in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 with those funds coming from the Agawam Road account, with the intent being that funds be returned to the Agawam Road account upon the sale of any of the property being appraised.

Johnson – Powers

All in favor.

VOTED.

DLTA Program – MAPC Local Technical Assistance Grant – Stormwater Utility

Town Manager recalled that the Board's work plan includes the development of a town-wide stormwater utility district. He noted that this would be a source of funding for that work without using Town funds. The request is to authorize staff to apply to MAPC for grant money to complete the study. The available funds are in excess of \$30,000. He informed the Board that the Town would be notified if the proposal submitted qualifies.

Selectman Whitehead noted that the MWRA regulations related to stormwater will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. He explained that the MS 4 Regulations are the second round of regulations from the EPA that govern stormwater discharge into streams and rivers. The regulations require the Town to do a great deal of documentation and look to be expensive to maintain as GIS systems are required that show the entire stormwater system, record keeping, sampling of outfalls, etc., a very expensive process. He noted that this will also drive future stormwater projects. He informed his colleagues that the chances are good that Winchester will not meet the regulations without some additional improvements to the stormwater system.

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*Motion: That the Board of Selectmen authorize staff to submit the Local Technical Assistance grant request for assistance in developing a stormwater utility.
Whitehead – Bettencourt All in favor. VOTED.

MATTERS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Michael O'Brien, 50 Clark Street came forward to question the status of the package store liquor license that has been appealed, and whether or not the license still exists. Chairman Grenzeback noted that there has been an appeal to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission and there will be a hearing on this matter on February 3, 2016 at 1:30 PM. He noted that there might not be a quick answer to the question. He explained that the decision to be made has nothing to do with the location only whether the owner retains the license. Chairman Grenzeback indicated that according to regulations, there must be a location for a license, however the license exists but nothing can be done with that license until the ABCC makes its ruling.

Mr. O'Brien next asked about the property at Washington Street and Swanton Street, the proposed location for a CVS Store and whether there is a decision on the horizon. Chairman Grenzeback indicated that there is nothing imminent and the issue is under consideration by the judge.

BUSINESS

Bastogne Presentation Update – Ellen Knight, PhD.

Dr. Knight provided a video presentation of the gifts ceremony in Hemroulle, Belgium. She noted that the project has been a great success. Selectman Powers informed his colleagues that Colonel John Hanlon is being inducted into the Winchester High School Sports Hall of Fame on May 5th.

Briefing on MBTA Winchester Train Station Project- Town Engineer Beth Rudolph

Chairman Grenzeback informed the Board that the MBTA will be briefing the Board on February 22nd.

Town Engineer Beth Rudolph provided some background information on this project, beginning in 2010 when temporary repairs with a predicted five-year life span were made. In December 2011, the MBTA issued the 15% Design report. Spring, 2014, the Town requested revisions to the original 15% design to support Town Center rezoning and revitalization goals. In October, 2015, the Working Group endorsed the revised 15% design plan and in December of 2015, the Revised 15% Design Report was issued by the MBTA.

Revised 15% Design Objectives:

- Improve station connection to the north side of Quill Rotary;
- Preserve & enliven the Town Common area;
- Place ramps in visible locations
- Coordinate station design at Waterfield Lot with future redevelopment plan;
- Maintain potential for future vehicular tunnel connection between Aberjona & Waterfield Lots;

The 15% Design Cost Estimate is \$25,800,000

15% Design – Southern End

- Minimize the footprint with elevators and ramps;
- Chamber of Commerce Building to be razed;
- Inclusion of (2) elevators, a substantial design change that the MBTA agreed to;

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project. He noted that the Board has no real authority in this matter however something should be sent to both the ZBA and MassHousing.

Chairman Grenzeback indicated that in terms of the Town's responsibility, the Board of Selectmen can bring forward issues that they are concerned about:

- 1.) density, height, design context; can this be visualized;
- 2.) traffic, pedestrian safety; are there solutions that will address these issues;
- 3.) storm sewer and water engineering; are these adequately addressed;
- 4.) police and fire; effect on ability to properly fund public safety operations;
- 5.) future development;

Selectman Bettencourt suggested that a traffic signal at Cambridge Street and Pond Street will turn Wainwright Road into the back road to Johnson Road. He noted that this is a problem particularly because there are no sidewalks, creating a pedestrian safety issue.

Chairman Grenzeback indicated that the Board would be requesting staff to provide some draft comments for inclusion in correspondence to the Zoning Board of Appeal that outline critical concerns. Selectman Whitehead suggested that it would be useful to know where the Town regulations out-weigh the State regulations, i.e., stormwater is a clear case where the State uses a different standard for a rainfall event and the Town uses a greater rainfall event, therefore which would be applicable in this instance. There is also concern about what this project might do to the levels at Winter Pond. Chairman Grenzeback indicated that this would all be used as a discussion point at the Board's next meeting on February 1st.

Eric Hayden, 7 Wainwright Road requested that the Board underscore the neighborhood concerns that this project creates a precedent. The structure is a monstrosity and the developer has indicated that it is not his responsibility to mitigate problems that exist. He expressed concern about pedestrian and traffic safety, the sanitary sewer overflow impact and the building massing sets a precedent.

Marion Crandall, 7 Wainwright Road pointed out that the lot is a postage stamp in size, 2.735 acres that would have 96 units, creating a density of 35.10 units per acre. She noted that the only thing that comes close to this density is in the Town Center. Parkview is approximately 39.75 acres but is built on eight acres. The other dense development is 666 Main Street, located in the Town Center at 32 units per acre. Ms. Crandall indicated that every other issue is exacerbated, the grade is at 10% going down, there are no sidewalks and traffic is horrendous; drainage problems are frequent. She suggested that the building is massive and the area impervious with little open space. She noted that the density and mass will drive every other associated problem.

Mary Crotty, 30 Surrey Road recalled that at one of the first ZBA meetings the neighborhood was informed that there would be 11.5 children in total living in the complex. The neighbors asked how this calculation was reached because smaller developments in Winchester have produced many more children. She explained that Vinson-Owen is a beautifully renovated school and requested more information about how the 11.5 children calculation was reached, as she feels that there will be many more children living in the complex. She questioned how the Town will be prepared for the influx of children into the school system.

Bob Williams, 7 Wainwright Road informed the Board that when he resided at 11 Cambridge Street, a group of neighbors / abutters reviewed the incidences of water quality problems that caused the closure of Shannon Beach (formerly Sandy Beach), comparing these incidents with the closure of Wedge Pond. In 2015, the comparison revealed that Shannon Beach was closed five times due to water quality problems from mid-June to Labor Day; in 2014, the Beach was closed three times; 2013, Beach closed three times; 2012, closed three times; with the average closure times numbering between five and seven

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per season. Mr. Williams explained that from living on the Lake, the sewage overflow problem during rain events between ¼” and ½” causes overflow of sewage into yards, driveways and into the Lake. He indicated that the concern is that a development of the proposed density will exacerbate the problem not only in wet periods but in dry periods as well. He suggested that whether Tetra Tech compares favorably with the Weston & Sampson Report, a good judgment has to be made about the impact of the project in perpetuity. He pointed out that water quality is a life and health issue.

Richard Shanahan, 7 Wainwright Road informed the Board that at the meeting last week, the addition of a group home was discussed. He noted that the neighbors are not sure what a group home is or where it comes from or where it will be located. He explained that the neighbors feel that more and different units are being put on this very small piece of property. He requested that the Board look into this matter, as it is his understanding that the ZBA public hearings will go into the month of March.

Bill Swanton, Cambridge Street informed the Board that the area that overflows and would be affected is adjacent to Niles Lane, between the Upper Fore Bay and Middle Fore Bay at the Boat Club, and is the area where the Winchester Boat Club sails. He indicated that every day that Shannon Beach is closed is a day where there is concern about the sailors falling out of their boats and swimming in the “Gut”. He noted that there are many people affected by the water quality in the area, most of whom are Winchester residents.

Joe O’Connor, 7 Wainwright Road pointed out that there are only five guest parking spaces proposed for this project, one of which is dedicated to handicap parking. He also noted that the development will create 69,080 gallons per day, and if the repairs are made as recommended by the peer review, the problem would be reduced by less than 5,000 gallons per day. He asked where the remaining 64,080 gallons will go. He recalled that as previously stated in the peer review, there are overflows on Cambridge Street and down on the lower end, off Everett Avenue. He noted that after a rainstorm, the manholes surcharge. Mr. O’Connor informed the Board that also not considered since the Weston & Sampson study was done about ten years ago, since that time numerous homes have been constructed beyond the area where the Ledges are located; each of those homes has more than five bathrooms. He noted that there has been a substantial amount of input into the system in the last ten years, which has not been considered. He suggested that if a permit is issued, a system correction will have to be made. If the Town has to make the correction it will be very expensive to dig up the street and install new sewer lines. Mr. O’Connor requested that all of this be taken into consideration.

Chairman Grenzeback summarized that the Board has a list of concerns that include density, height, design layout, visualization, traffic and pedestrian safety, interaction with Pond Street intersection, environmental / sanitary sewer / stormwater management downstream effects to Mystic Lakes, Police and Fire safety, future use of the property, population projections long-term, and definition of a group home. The Chairman noted that it is likely that the Board will invite public comment at the February 1st meeting, keeping in mind that the Board’s role is advisory in nature only.

Selectman Powers noted that one of the waivers is for open space, where there is a 75% requirement and this project has only 72% according to the proposal, however the proposal includes the portion of the property located in Woburn, really not a part of the development. He asked whether this inclusion is legally possible, i.e., including property that is not a part of the project. Selectman Bettencourt requested clarification of the definition “Open Space” and “Open Area” as a part of this project.

Special Counsel Attorney Mark Bobrowski added that the Board of Selectmen has a letter that was prepared and sent to MassHousing at the beginning of this process where many of the same questions were raised before there were answers. He suggested using the structure of that letter now that answers are available, it will provide a framework for moving forward.

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Town Counsel indicated that the environmental issues will not be overlooked by the staff team, as the Board of Selectmen has been leading the charge on issues related to Edgewater Place, the Mystic Lakes, sanitary sewers, stormwater runoff, etc.

At 9:05 PM Chairman Grenzeback declared a brief recess; the meeting was reconvened at 9:15 PM.

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Renewal – Bryan Adams and Ken Lombardi, NFP

Town Manager provided the background on the history of the Town's health insurance package. He explained that if the Board supports the proposal this evening, this will be the second year in a row where there has been a 0% premium increase. The experience has been much more favorable than it was in 2012, and year over year things have been beneficial to both the Town and the employees.

Bryan Adams explained that the Town's annual health insurance renewal date is July 1st. He explained the difference between an HMO [managed care] and a PPO; a PPO [Preferred Provider Organization] does not require a primary care physician or referrals to other physicians; premium payments for a PPO are at a different level. Overall, the Town has 651 subscribers to its health insurance offerings.

Senior Plans (Medicare Retirees) – Renewed as of January 1, 2016

- Current Insurance Carriers Include Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and Tufts Health Plan;
- HPHC Medicare Enhanced Plan for Medical and Aetna Rx program (prescription) – 445 subscribers;
- Tufts Health Plan Medicare Preferred HMO Prime (9 subscribers);

The Town's Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) is self-administered;

- Manages mitigation funds (resulting from legislative plan change action);

The Town's Health Care Plan

- In FY2008 the Town consolidated from Bc/Bs and HPHC Plan to a plan offered through Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association;
- In FY2010 Medex 2 plan change implemented (Rx change);
- FY2011 Plan changes implemented;
- Health Reimbursement Account set up for facility-co-pays;
- FY2013 RFP – MIIA term; HPHC became carrier;
- FY2014 Plan changes implemented; moved to "benchmark" plan design;
- FY2015 Renewal negotiation; "delayed" to allow impact of plan change on renewal negotiations;
- FY2016 Renewal negotiations; "early" action produced favorable results;
- FY2017 Renewal negotiations underway.

HPHC Claims Analysis

- Includes HMO & PPO Claims vs. Premium Loss ratio;
- FY13 – Claims incurred from July1, 2012 thru June 30, 2013 and paid through September 30, 2013 was 96% when adjusted by Section 22 changes (-6%);
- FY2014 loss ratio improved as a result of plan changes to cost sharing features, claims vs. premium – 74%;
- HPHC was asked to release early FY2016 renewal using claims through July 2015;
- 24 month loss ratio thru July 2015 was 75%;
- Carriers normally evaluate 24 months of claims data when setting premium rates;
- Value of "Navigator Style" on previous plan claims impact;
- NFP suggest favorable loss ratio (trends) over past 24 months as basis for rate hold;

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- Risk Issues under review: large ongoing claims; by cost; by diagnosis; compound trend;

Budget Impact

- Carrier trends – renewal pricing:
 - 7% to 9%;
 - HPHC currently using 7.9% to 8.5% depending on whether HMO or PPO melded with Rx;
 - BC/BS currently using 7.5% to 7.8% for medical and 14.64% to 18.1% for Rx (separated out);
 - Tufts Health Plan is using 7% - 9% melded;
 - Affordable Care Act Fees add 1.5% - 2.5%;
- Budget impacts to Town at: (based on estimated 72% / 18% melded splits);
 - 7% = +\$631,000;
 - 9% = +\$812,000;
- Target Medical Loss Ratio impact:
 - Carrier rate structure targets 88% - 90% breakeven;
 - Reasonable and appropriate increase would be 7% to 9% at these levels;

Non-Medicare Retirees Plan Design: Core co-pays

Covered Service	Prior HPHC HMO	HPHC Municipal Choice Net HMO effective 7/1/2013
PCP Office Visit	\$15 co-pay (\$0 well)	\$20 co-pay (\$0 well)
Specialist office visit	\$15 co-pay	\$25, 35, 45 co-pay
In-patient Hospitalization	\$250	\$300 / \$700 co-pay after ded.*
Out-patient surgery	\$150 (\$0 well)	\$150 co-pay (\$0well) after ded*
Emergency Room	\$50 co-pay	\$100 co-pay after ded*
Diagnostic tests, x-rays, labs	\$0	No co-pay after ded*
CT's, MRI's, PET's	\$0	\$100 co-pay after ded*
Rx:	<u>30 day / 90 day</u>	<u>30 day / 90 day</u>
Generic	\$10 / \$10 co-pay	\$10 / \$20 co-pay
Preferred Brand	\$20 / \$20 co-pay	\$25 / \$50 co-pay
Non-Preferred Brand	\$35 / \$35 co-pay	\$50 / \$110 co-pay

The deductible under the new plan is \$250 per member, not to exceed \$750 per family per plan year. PPO plan has similar in-network co-pays.

Medicare Retirees Supplement Plan Design: Core co-pays

Covered Service	Prior Medicare Enhance Hi Option	Supplement Plans Lo Option	Enhance Option Effective 7/1/2013
PCP Office Visit	\$0 co-pay	\$10 co-pay (\$0 well)	\$35 calendar year deductible, then covered at 100%
Specialist Office Visit	\$0 co-pay	\$10 co-pay	\$35 calendar year deductible, then covered at 100%
In-patient Hospital	\$0	\$0	\$100 calendar yr ded then covered at 100%

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Out-patient Surgery	\$0	\$0	\$100 calendar year deductible then covered 100%
Emergency Room	\$0	\$100 co-pay	\$25 co-pay
Diagnostic Tests, x-ray labs	\$0	\$0	\$0
CT's, MRI's, PET'S	\$0	\$0	\$0
Rx: Generic	<u>30 day / 90 day</u> \$10/\$20 co-pay	<u>30 day / 90 day</u> \$10/\$20 co-pay	<u>30 day / 90 day</u> \$10/\$20 co-pay
Preferred Brand	\$20/\$0 co-pay	\$20/\$40 co-pay	\$25/\$50 co-pay
Non-Preferred Brand	\$35/\$70 co-pay	\$35/\$70 co-pay	\$50/\$110 co-pay

Rate and Premium Summary

HMO	Current Rates	Renewal Rates	Rate Impact
Individual	\$716.37	\$716.37	0.00%
E/K	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Dual	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Family	\$1,934.25	\$1,934.25	0.00%
Total Monthly Premium	\$848,127.12	\$848,127.12	
Total Annual Premium	\$10,177,524.44	\$10,177,524.44	
PPO	Current Rates	Renewal Rates	Rate Impact
Individual	\$904.20	\$904.20	0.00%
E/K	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Dual	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Family	\$2,441.30	\$2,441.30	0.00%
Total Monthly Premium	\$23,056.90	\$23,056.90	
Total Annual Premium	\$276,682.80	\$276,682.80	

PLAN DESIGN SUMMARY & CHANGES FOR FY16

	ChoiceNet HMO		ChoiceNet PPO		
	Product	HMO	PPO		
	Tier Level	Current	Renewal Changes	Current	Renewal Changes
Deductible	Tier 1	\$250 / \$750		\$250 / \$750	
	Tier 2	\$250 / \$750		\$250 / \$750	
	Tier 3	\$250 / \$750		\$250 / \$750	
Out of Pocket		\$6,600 / \$13,200	Med: \$2,000 / \$4,000	\$6,600 / \$13,200	Med: \$2,000 / \$4,000
			Rx: \$3,000 / \$6,000		Rx: \$3,000 / \$6,000
Out of Network Member Cost Sharing		NA		20% after Ded	
Emergency Room		\$100 Copayment after Tier 1 Deductible		\$100 Copayment after Tier 1 Deductible	
	Tier 1	\$300 after Ded		\$300 after Ded	
In-Patient	Tier 2	\$300 after Ded		\$300 after Ded	
	Tier 3	\$700 after Ded		\$700 after Ded	
		\$150 after Ded		\$150 after Ded	
Out-Patient		\$150 after Ded		\$150 after Ded	
Lab / Radiology Services		Tier 1 Deductible		Tier 1 Deductible	
High-Tech Imaging		\$100 after Ded		\$100 after Ded	
Prescription - 30 Days		\$10 / \$25 / \$50		\$10 / \$25 / \$50	
Prescription - Mail Order		\$20 / \$50 / \$110		\$20 / \$50 / \$110	
Prescription Deductible		NA		NA	

Ken Lombardi, NFP consultant informed the Board that the rates shown are from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Employees will enjoy more benefits without additional costs. Bryan Adams noted that HPHC has kept the subscriber's out of pocket costs at \$2,000 and \$4,000 respectively. In response to Selectman Whitehead's question about where the rates would go with the Cadillac tax, Bryan Adams explained that things are ok with the HMO product but the PPO rate is almost there. Mr. Lombardi noted that the employee is responsible for paying that tax, however there is an age adjustment for the

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older population. Selectman Whitehead pointed out that a governmental exemption is also in the works.



HMO PLAN DESIGN: CORE COPAY STRUCTURE

Covered Service	Winchester HMO	2016 GIC Plan	2016 HPHC GIC Benchmark
Deductible	\$250 Ind /\$750 family	\$300 Ind/ \$900 family	\$300Ind /\$900 Family
PCP Office Visit	\$20	\$20	\$20
Specialist Office Visit	Tier 1 \$25 Tier 2 \$35 Tier 3 \$45	Tier 1 \$30 Tier 2 \$60 Tier 3 \$90	Tier 1 \$30 Tier 2 \$60 Tier 3 \$75
In-Patient copay	Tier 1 \$300 then ded Tier 2 \$300 then ded Tier 3 \$750 then ded	Tier 1 \$250 then ded Tier 2 \$500 then ded Tier 3 \$1500 then ded	Tier 1 \$250 then ded Tier 2 \$500 then ded Tier 3 \$1000 then ded
Day Surgery	\$150.00 then ded	\$250 then ded	\$250 then ded
Emergency Room	\$100 then ded	\$100 then ded	\$100 then ded
Diag test, x-ray, labs	Covered in full after the deductible has been meet	Covered in full after the deductible has been meet	Covered in full after the deductible has been meet
High Tech Imaging	\$100 per scan then ded	\$100 per scan then ded	\$100 per scan then ded
RX 30 day supply	\$10/\$25/\$50	\$10/\$30/\$65	\$10/\$30/\$65
RX 90 day supply	\$20/\$50/\$110	\$25/\$75/\$165	\$25/\$75/\$165



The Board was informed that the deductibles are slightly lower. Also included is a survey of benefits, which could be emailed to participants or posted on the Town's website. Once responses are consolidated, the Board will be supplied with the aggregate data.

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Town Manager explained that the request this evening is for the Board to provide him with the authority to sign the rate sheet for the new rates effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. He noted that each Spring, every subscriber is informed about the benefits package.

Selectman Powers raised the question of whether the Board could delay giving Town Manager the authority to sign the contract until some feedback from the survey is received. Town Manager indicated that it would take a long ramp-up time for negotiations and this could be more work than what could be accomplished before the new rates become effective on July 1st. He suggested accepting the 0% increase and if the survey finds that there is dissatisfaction, that information will be considered during the last six months of the contract to develop a design and RFP soliciting a new vendor. He suggested that some things might be accomplished privately to make the plan work better and plan design changes can be done outside of contract negotiations. Chairman Grenzeback agreed with locking the rate now and working on something for later.

Town Manager informed the Board that he would meet with the employee Insurance Advisory Committee to discuss whether steps should be taken to design a product for bid, which would set things up for change in 2018.

As far as any patterns showing that the Board should not go forward, Town Manager explained that from a customer service standpoint, there are a series of things that had to be dealt with initially. The HPHC product mirrors the hospital and physicians list from Blue Cross / Blue Shield. He indicated that the survey will likely show that a lower premium and deductible would be more desirable. Bryan Adams noted that the tiering is done on an annual basis and usually goes down rather than increases.

Vice Chairman Johnson questioned why Winchester Hospital would not be the lowest tier facility. He suggested that the plan should be tailored to the community and the local hospital should be given the first consideration. The Board was informed that the academic medical centers charge more.

*Motion: That the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town Manager to sign the FY2017 health insurance contract with Harvard Pilgrim Health Care.

Whitehead – Bettencourt

All in favor.

VOTED.

Discussion continued about the best method for distribution of the survey. It was suggested that an executive summary be put together for posting on the website; the survey should include time-sensitive data. Responses would be due back by May 2nd. Town Manager informed the Board that the survey will be ready for review at a March Board of Selectmen Meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA / SUPPLEMENTAL CONSENT AGENDA

**Authorization to use funds from the Agawam Road Gift Account
in the amount of \$2,225 for consulting services re: Skillings Field synthetic
turf and the Public Safety Building projects;
Authorization to use funds from the Agawam Road Gift Account to complete an
appraisal of a parcel of land on Main Street;
Approval of Health Director's Request to increase the expenditure cap for
the Board of Health 53 ½ E Revolving Account;
Authorization to expend up to \$4,000 from the Agawam Road Gift Account
for the appraisal of property located adjacent to 764 Main Street**

*Motion: That the Board of Selectmen approve the Consent Agenda and the Supplemental Consent Agenda for Monday, January 25, 2016 that includes the following: authorization to use funds from the Agawam

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Road Gift Account for the following:
in the amount of \$2,225 for consulting services re: Skillings Field
synthetic turf and the Public Safety Building projects; to complete an
appraisal of a parcel of land on Main Street; to expend up to \$4,000 for
the appraisal of property located adjacent to 764 Main Street; to approve
the Health Director's request to increase the expenditure cap for the
Board of Health 53 1/2E Revolving Account.

Johnson – Bettencourt

All in favor.

VOTED.

COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKING GROUP REPORTS

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

1. Planning Board Agenda – Tuesday, January 19, 2016
2. Correspondence from Residents re: Eversource 345kV line – Woburn to Wakefield
3. Email from Russell Hulteen re: Woburn Loop Land Purchase
4. Public Information Session Notice: NStar d/b/a Eversource Energy - Woburn to Wakefield 345kV Project
5. Public Information Session Notice: NStar d/b/a Eversource Energy – Mystic to Woburn 115kV Project
6. James A. Johnson, III to Zoning Board of Appeal re: 416 Cambridge Street 40B Project
7. Ledges 40B Committee / residents to Zoning Board of Appeal and Planning Board re: 416 Cambridge Street 40B Project
8. James Mullare, 8 Priscilla Lane re: loss of parking spaces at rear of Library due to electric car charging station installation
9. Xfinity (Comcast) – Change of Address Notification
10. MBTA Fare Proposal / Proposed Commuter Rail Schedule Changes – Public Meeting Locations Notificaiton
11. School Committee Agenda – Tuesday, January 26, 2016

Adjournment: 10:25 PM

*Motion: That the Board of Selectmen adjourn for the evening.

Johnson – Whitehead

By Roll Call Vote: Whitehead, Bettencourt, Powers, Johnson, Grenzeback VOTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. Howard, Town Manager