

TOWN OF MARLBORO  
REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
Thursday, May 10, 2012

**ATTENDANCE:**

Present were select board members Craig Hammond, chair, Andrea Livermore and Pieter van Loon. Also present were Linda Peters, Town Treasurer; Robert Elliott, resident; Elizabeth McEwen from Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA); and Marcia Hamilton, Select Board Assistant.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE OF PAY ORDERS:**

The board approved and signed pay orders.

**SCHEDULED AND UNSCHEDULED TIME:**

Robert Elliott, a member of the public, requested paving Higley Hill Road. The board will take it into consideration and discuss it with the Road Foreman, David Elliott, at the next meeting.

Elizabeth McEwen, Southeast Vermont Community Action (SEVCA), advocate for long term Tropical Storm Irene unmet needs attended the meeting to discuss homeowners on Augur Hole Road with whom she is working. Once residents are working with SEVCA, the towns would approve projects and receive the funds for repairs.

SEVCA had been to a specific home on Augur Hole Road, referred to SEVCA by the Marlboro Alliance. They were already working with SEVCA to weatherize the home when the storm damaged the home and the weatherization has to be redone. The funders (the State recovery program) want all projects considered at the same time. The town-to-homeowner split is either 90/10 or 75/25. For project approval the first fiscal approval level is Windham County local long term recovery committee (United Way) then the next one is at the State level.

She has 15 cases in Marlboro and some are menial but something they cannot t really afford to do. There are no income eligibility standards for grant funds as a loss from Irene is considered just as great for someone with a good job as it is for anybody else. The Town has to apply and send a letter with an estimate to Elizabeth at SEVCA. Twenty-five percent of the estimate would be homeowner's and Elizabeth in this case she will find it for them. She will get the first amount and then she will go to the state. The Vermont Disaster Relief Fund will cut the check to the town. Town gets estimates for all the projects.

The Board realized it would need a clerk of the works to coordinate the process. Craig will talk with Elizabeth McEwen and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to see if they can provide this help, as they have the technical expertise to oversee such work.

No decision was made and the Board will hold off until it understands process. Craig will stay in contact with Elizabeth and Linda Peters.

Hal Himmelstein, Chair, Hogback Preservation Commission, requested a load of material to be dumped at the White's Loop trailhead, Old Hogback Road. Craig will contact David Elliott to let him know Hal will contact him to make arrangements. Craig will also call Hal and ask about the buildings he wants to remove from Hogback property.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The board approved the minutes of the Regular meeting of 4/26/2012 (van Loon/Livermore).

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The board appointed Matthew Tell to a one-year term as Alternate on the Development Review Board, and Susanne Shapiro to a three-year term as Health Officer. (van Loon/Livermore)

Pieter van Loon reported that he looked at the ash and birch trees hanging over the Town House and determined they should come down. He will contact tree services to obtain quotes for the work.

Marcia Hamilton reported that she attended the recent Neighborhood Network meeting and a question arose as to whether the networks, once established, would be affiliated with the town so as to be subject to the Open Meeting Law. The Board indicated it did not intend for the networks to operate under the Open Meeting Law. Andrea indicated she would contact Glenn Herrin about this and the budget items he wants to discuss at the next select board meeting.

Craig will call Drew Adam about the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Water Program (EWP) Debris Removal Grant and get confirmation.

Regarding the email from Barry Cahoon, River Management Engineer, regarding the Stream Bank Stabilization, Branch Brook near Bridge #7, Craig will contact Martha A. Abair, mentioned in the email, and obtain authorization from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and forward a copy of design plans to USACE.

Animal control issues were discussed and there appears to be two candidates. The Board will ask them to send a resume and set up time to talk with them at the May 24 select board meeting. Craig met with Annie Guion, Director of Windham County Humane Society (WCHS). She indicated WCHS is interested in getting towns to help fund a Humane Treatment Agent through the Vermont Humane Federation. Animal neglects and abuses would be handled by this specialist. Currently the only Humane Treatment Agent is in Chittenden County. Local animal control officers would take care of loose dogs, stray dogs, etc. She said that generally towns do not want to seize dogs; they prefer to work more in a social work capacity, supporting owners of animals to agree to and comply with animal welfare statutes and ordinances in their own homes and on their own property. Craig also met with Sheriff Keith Clark. The contract the town has with the Sheriff's department includes back-up enforcement support, upon request when animal owners in violation of statute and ordinances need to be visited.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Andrea Livermore reported on her Select Board training by Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Regarding emails, she said they should be one-way informational, no chatting. Regarding constable, she said it is much better to have appointed constable so job description can be written and the select board can authorize activity especially as regards animal control. Marcia will contact the Town Clerk's office and inquire as to the vote taken at town meeting regarding the constable's law enforcement powers. Andrea reported an embezzlement tool is being unveiled in June as Vermont has a high rate of occurrence. As for town highways, there is a list serve for road foremen. Local Roads has a team of people who come to towns and inspect roads if requested. The board recently signed new highway standards and Marcia will make copies available to the board.

The board discussed responding to citizen complaints. It happens all the time. One board member cannot speak for the whole board so some issues would need to come to a board agenda. The board realizes people have complaints that are not the board's responsibility to remedy. No action is required.

Windham Regional Commission's Multi-Jurisdictional Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan is available at the WRC office. The board received a copy of a letter to WRC from FEMA stating the plan must be reviewed and revised as appropriate every five years.

**INFORMATION ITEMS AND MAIL:**

The Board briefly discussed an acknowledgement letter for a \$3,000 donation to the town for Tropical Storm Irene recovery help. The Board feels such a significant sum might be applied to in-kind funds by the town for a resident's home repairs. The Board will discuss the possibilities with Nora Wilson and Linda Peters.

**ADJOURN:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcia L. Hamilton, Select Board Assistant