

**TOWN OF MARLBORO, VERMONT
MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - MARCH 1, 2016**

Moderator Steven John called the meeting to order at 9:06 A.M. and read out the warning :

The legal voters of the Town of Marlboro, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Town House of said Marlboro on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 9:00 A.M. to consider and act upon the following Articles:

He noted that the polls will be open on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. in the Marlboro Town Office for the purpose of electing by Australian ballot the officers listed in Article 3. A wind storm in the early morning knocked out power in numerous areas of town, and numerous trees were down on power lines. The turnout in the meeting is less than usual.

Article 1. To elect a Moderator for a one year term.

Steven John nominated by Jonathan Morse and seconded by Lucy Gratwick.

Moved by Clarence Boston and seconded by T. Hunter Wilson that the nominations be closed and that the Clerk cast a single ballot.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

Steven John elected as Moderator for a one year term.

Article 2. To act upon the Auditors' Report.

So moved Celena Romo and seconded by Gail MacArthur.

Discussion followed: no corrections brought up.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

Auditors' Report accepted.

Article 3. To elect all town officers required by law to be elected at the Annual Town Meeting: Select Board, one three-year term; Lister, one three-year term; Auditor, one three-year term; Treasurer, one three-year term; Trustee of Public Funds, one three-year term; Collector of Delinquent Taxes, one three-year term, Constable, one one-year term; Grand Juror, one one-year term; Town Agent, one one-year term.

At the invitation of the Moderator the candidates present stood: Patti Smith write-in for Select Board, Andy Reichsman for Auditor, Forrest Holzapfel for Lister, Linda Peters for Treasurer, Collector of Delinquent Taxes, and Trustee of Public Funds.

~ Motion made to move to School District meeting ~

Moved by Clarence Boston and seconded by T. Hunter Wilson to recess the meeting in order to convene the School District Meeting.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

~ Moderator Steven John recessed the meeting at 9:12 A.M. to proceed to the School District Meeting. ~

~ Moderator Steven John reconvened the Town Meeting at 10:49 A.M. ~

Suspend the rules to allow the Select Board to review aspects of the prior year:

- Internet connectivity in Marlboro, a committee is needed to further enhance our standing in getting all residents connected, the Select Board would like to get more residents to join a committee that meets regularly to address future needs as technology changes with time, ideally with quarterly reports to the Select Board.
- The Board introduced by name the new Animal Control Officer, Michael Young.
- The Board introduced by name Michael Andreotta, who is the current Emergency Management Director.

~ Moderator Steven John asked to further suspend the rules for Representative Emily Long and Senator Becca Balint to speak to the meeting at 11:03 am ~

- Emily spoke first, and commended the Marlboro Elementary School Board in stepping up to the additional work of Act 46, and discussing the changes coming along with it. The legislation is in process.
- Becca then spoke about how she was once a teacher in the Junior High at MES, and further about the various committees she serves on including those discussing housing, broadband internet access, declining enrollment and economic development.
- Questions from the floor on: housing and the energy code as it applies to housing throughout the State and how people can't afford to meet the code; Route 9 issues regarding speed near Marlboro Elementary School and the turn to South Road off Route 9 and general discussion of the poor quality of the road surface and noise from the rumble strip down the center; Medicaid reimbursements and the lack of primary care doctors & dental care; the legalization of marijuana as a funding source, its pros and cons, and how it impacts the State of Vermont; where does the lottery money go, as it should be helping

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fund education; Act 46 and projected budgets; the out-of-control deer population and the proliferation of Lyme Disease and further the question of encouraging the apex predators such as wolves to help balance the deer herd.

~ Moderator Steven John recessed the meeting at noon for lunch, to return at 1 P.M. ~

~ Moderator Steven John reconvened the Town Meeting at 1:01 P.M. ~

Article 4. To see if the town will set Friday, October 7, 2016 as the due date for property taxes, payable to the Treasurer.

So moved by Clarence Boston and seconded by Paul Butler.

Discussion followed: Tom Toleno asked why the date seems to be creeping back, when it used to after the Columbus Day holiday. Linda Peters addressed the fact that more taxes come in when the holiday does not impede the flow of taxes.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

Friday, October 7, 2016 set as due date for property taxes, payable to the Treasurer.

Article 5. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$225,000.00 for the General Fund.

So moved by Clarence Boston and seconded by Edith Mas.

Discussion followed with the Select Board outlining the general budget and noting that it is level funded from the prior year. Specific questions:

- Michelle Holzapfel asked is there a line item for Town House?
- The solar project on the town garage is helping offset the overall electricity bill for the town.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$225,000.00 voted for the General Fund.

Article 6. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$325,000.00 for town highways, summer and winter maintenance.

So moved by Lucy Gratwick and seconded by T. Hunter Wilson.

Discussion followed: Road Foreman David Elliott spoke regarding a question about re-paving South Road, which if the State funding comes through will be this coming summer. Erik von Ranson asked is there any provision for State usage of town roads when Route 9 is closed? David Elliott said that our State aid takes this into account. The assembled people applauded the town Road Crew. And further thanks to Andy Reichsman for his service to the town for the last 3 years as Select Board member.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$325,000.00 voted for town highways, summer and winter maintenance.

Article 7. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$10,000.00 to the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. to help defray operating expenses.

So moved by Anthony Gordon and seconded by Clarence Boston.

Discussion followed: Some discussion of the withering of Volunteer Fire Departments state-wide. Person power is more in need than additional funding. Emergency Management Director funding will end July 1, 2016, so that position will become volunteer at that time.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$10,000.00 voted to the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. to help defray operating expenses.

Article 8. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$12,019.64 to Rescue, Inc. for services.

So moved Anthony Gordon and seconded by Patti Smith.

Discussion followed: Pat DeAngelo asked how many Marlboro residents were served, and Allison Turner guessed around 50 residents.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote, one abstention.

\$12,019.64 voted to Rescue, Inc. for services.

Article 9. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$1,500.00 to Deerfield Valley Rescue, Inc. for services.

So moved T. Hunter Wilson and seconded by Lucy Gratwick.

Discussion followed: Allison Turner spoke to the difference between DVR and Rescue, Inc. Pat DeAngelo asked how many Marlboro residents were served by DVR and the answer is 17.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$1,500 voted to Deerfield Valley Rescue, Inc. for services.

Article 10. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$1,000.00 to Grace Cottage Hospital.

Motion made by Sophie Dennis to lump Article 10 thru 13 as one article.

Seconded by Mark Ames. Steven John read the articles in full.

Adam Katrick asked to have article 13 separated, but no motion made.

David Elliot wants to amend the motion to combine only 10, 11, and 12.

Moderator Steven John explained that a vote of yes is to amend the motion and a vote no to not amend the motion.

Ayes unanimous.

Then a vote on Sophie Dennis's AMENDED motion to vote on 10, 11, 12.

Ayes unanimous.

All those in favor of voting Articles 10,11,12 simultaneously.

AYES unanimous.

So moved and seconded.

No discussion followed.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$1,000.00 voted to Grace Cottage Hospital.

Article 11. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$50.00 for the support of Green Up Vermont to provide services to residents of the town.

\$50.00 voted for the support of Green Up Vermont.

Article 12. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend up to \$3,000.00 to support the production of the Marlboro Mixer newsletter.

\$3,000.00 voted to Marlboro Mixer newsletter.

Article 13. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$500 to help the American Red Cross, Green Mountain in support of their mission and the work they do in Marlboro and the State of Vermont.

So moved Linda Peters and seconded by David Elliott.

Discussion followed: Anthony Gordon spoke regarding the financial might of the American Red Cross on a national level and he proposed our contribution doesn't amount to much. Adam Katrick spoke to the discrimination of gay men who are not allowed to donate blood to the organization. He urged to not vote this article.

Voice vote unclear

Division of the house, no clear winner.

JPs will hand count:

AYES = 16

NAYS = 13

Motion passed 16 to 13, with 12 abstentions.

\$500 voted to help the American Red Cross, Green Mountain.

Article 14. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend the sum of \$3,234.00 for the support of Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies

(SeVEDS) to provide workforce and economic coordination services to residents of the Town.

So moved Jonathan Morse and seconded by Linda Peters.

Discussion followed.

- SeVEDS representative was Kristin Mehalick present, no objections from those assembled to have her speak. She spoke about her organization’s programming very successful internship program for students, SoVT Young Professionals events, “Fast Tracks to Success” implemented in area high schools.
- Questions re: funding amount, it is a \$3 per person request. SeVEDS is working with GS Precision, Chroma, and other area businesses and providing opportunities to area youth connecting the two. All internships are paid. Many questions regarding their role and details of the budget.
- Request by Sophie Dennis to have information added to our town report for the future. Pieter van Loon explained the procedure for getting on the warning, which SeVEDS complied with. Tyler Gibbons spoke in favor because of the difficulties of younger people living and working here.
- Keely Eastley called the question, second by Lucy Gratwick. Approved unanimously to end discussion.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$3,234 voted for the purpose of supporting Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) activities.

Article 15. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend the sum of \$9,929.00 for the following social service agencies:

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|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Brattleboro Area Hospice, Inc | \$ 250.00 |
| The Current | \$ 250.00 |

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|---|------------|
| Deerfield Valley Food Pantry | \$ 500.00 |
| Gathering Place for Adult Day Services | \$ 500.00 |
| Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center | \$ 230.00 |
| Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont | \$1,050.00 |
| Marlboro Cares..... | \$ 400.00 |
| Senior Solutions | \$ 400.00 |
| Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc. | \$ 970.00 |
| Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire ... | \$3,179.00 |
| Women's Freedom Center..... | \$1,200.00 |
| Youth Services..... | \$1,000.00 |

So moved Lucy Gratwick and seconded T. Hunter Wilson.

Discussion followed: Question on the Current and possible additional services for Marlboro and generally cross Windham County bus service. Light discussion regarding the above services.

\$9,929.00 voted for the social service agencies listed above.

Article 16. To see if the voters of the Town of Marlboro will authorize the town to borrow funds in anticipation of tax revenue.

So moved by Clarence Boston and seconded by Casey Deane.

No discussion.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

The Town of Marlboro will authorize the town to borrow funds in anticipation of tax revenue.

Article 17. To discuss any other nonbinding business.

- Andy Reichsman asked for a round of applause for Marcia Hamilton's excellent work as Administrative Assistant to the Select Board.
- Clarence Boston asked for a sense of the meeting to move that the Select Board of the Town of Marlboro requests the State Legislature to make Town Meeting Day a paid holiday in the State of Vermont." So voted by unanimous voice vote.

- Jonathan Morse pointed out that there is no longer an Marlboro Energy Committee, and hopes to renew the committee. Andy Reichsman thought there was a person to fill the position, but the person never came forth after initial contact.
- Michelle Holzapfel asked the meeting to thank Lauren MacArthur & Sarah Lavigne for conducting an excellent Town Meeting Lunch.
- Edie Mas pointed out that the Town of Marlboro supports the Windham Regional Commission.
- Discussion of Windham & Windsor Housing Trust.
- Windham County Sheriff and how are they doing. Some discussion regarding speed on town roads and the possibility of them patrolling on Route 9.
- Brian Whitehouse urged consistent help by the Select Board for internet committee support.
- David Elliott urged caution on the way home as there are still powerlines down and trees down on multiple town roads.

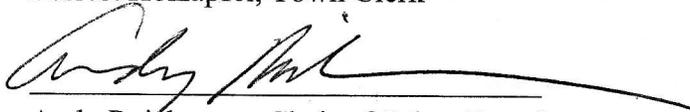
➤ **Moved to adjourn by T Hunter Wilson, seconded by Anthony Gordon at 2:39 p.m.**

Subject to additions and revisions presented which may come up after the posting date, according to law.

Respectfully Submitted,



Forrest Holzapfel, Town Clerk



Andy Reichsman, Chair of Select Board



Linda T. Peters, Treasurer & Justice of the Peace

