

TOWN OF MARLBORO
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, September 8, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

Present were select board members Tyler Gibbons, Chair; Pieter van Loon, Vice Chair and Patti Smith. Also present were Mike Young, Animal Control Officer; Mike Andreotta, Emergency Management Director; Mike Faher reporter for Vermont Commons and VTDigger. Also present were the following community members in no particular order: Craig Hammond, Liz Vick, Doreen O'Connor, Jay Callahan, Rob Merriam, Kevin Kennedy, Bill Esses, Jean Boardman, Rebecca Seigny, Dianna Noyes, Fred Bisbee, Pat DeAngelo, Mary Sargent, Gail MacArthur, Suzanne Whitehouse, Kate Tarlow Morgan, Nancy Anderson, Bob Anderson, Vivienne Coutant, Catharine Hamilton, and Megan and Allen Warner. Also present was Marcia Hamilton, select board assistant.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting came to order at 5:00 PM.

IDENTIFY ANY CHANGES TO AGENDA:

No changes were made to the agenda.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS:

No member of the public was present during the unscheduled open public comment period.

The board approved and signed Pay Orders.

The board voted (van Loon/Smith) to approve the minutes of the 08/11/2016 meeting. The board voted (Gibbons/Smith) to approve the minutes of the 08/25/2016 meeting.

Geoffrey Dolman was present to discuss his Muster Field lease with the Town. He would feel more comfortable having a three-year lease and giving three years notice at the beginning of the term or having the Town provide him with three years notice to vacate. The new term would mitigate agricultural losses whereas the current year-to-year lease provides him no protection against his investment and potential losses. The board agreed to make the change and Pieter will use the Word version of the lease to revise it for signatures.

The board and Mike Young discussed the nuisance dog situation on Lucier Road and signed a first written warning letter addressed to Ben Keating. It will be sent certified mail on Friday after this meeting. The letter offered him another chance to meet with the select board for discussion and suggestions of how to control his animal. If he takes the offer, a discussion will be on the agenda for the September 22 meeting. The select board and Animal Control Officer have talked with him repeatedly about his and the dog's violations of the Town's dog and wolf hybrid ordinance. The ordinance is enforced at the State Judicial Bureau once a ticket is issued. The board is willing to work with him to avoid more severe measures that could be imposed if the first written warning is not heeded.

The select board hosted a discussion for individuals who are concerned about the approximately seven burglaries that have occurred in Marlboro since June. Some of the homeowners were present and related their experiences with the break-ins and with the police who responded. Some

responding police officers shared advice about obtaining proof that intruders had been in the house and taken things. They suggested motion activated cameras inside and outside would provide images that would tell how many people, possible identity of people, possible identity of vehicles, possible identity of objects taken. But sometimes still photos of vehicles in a driveway or on a road are not enough to prove a crime. Some residents are sharing information about types of cameras and home security systems.

The Neighborhood Watch program was mentioned as a possibility for residents to help themselves. It falls under the Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and is a crime prevention program that involves the cooperation of residents and law enforcement. Rob Merriam offered to contact the Vermont State Police officer he has talked to in the past about the issue and ask for a date that would work to come to Marlboro and speak with a larger group in the near future. Once Rob hears back from the VSP, he will forward the information to the select board.

There was discussion about getting word out to every person in Marlboro to notify them of the burglaries and inform them about the upcoming meeting. Every effort will be made to inform Marlboro residents of the meeting by using every means available.

A group has been established for secure comments and discussions of burglaries. Vivienne Coutant is compiling a spreadsheet with detailed information about burglaries, suspicious activity and sightings. Any changes and additions go through Vivienne.

Some burglaries also occurred on Augur Hole Road in 2014 and 2015. After those instances a Windham County Sheriff's Department deputy provided written suggestions for prevention. A handout of the suggestions was distributed and has been posted on the Town web site since the Augur Hole Road burglaries. Follow a link on the front page.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

The board signed a Liquor License for the new owners of the Colonel Williams Inn. The board also signed a Financial Management Questionnaire provided to Linda Peters by Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Linda Peters completed the questionnaire and asked the board to review and sign it.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND MAIL:

Forrest Holzapfel informed the select board in an email that there was some rot developing on a window sill at the Town Office and suggested there may be some expense incurred to make repairs. He checked with the treasurer, Linda Peters, and she said there is enough money in the budget to cover the repairs.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia L. Hamilton, Select Board Assistant