

TOWN OF MARLBORO
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, December 13, 2018
5:00 PM

ATTENDANCE: Present were Select Board members Patti Smith, Chair, Tyler Gibbons, Vice-Chair and Jesse Kreitzer, Member. Also present were Linda Peters, Town Treasurer; David Elliott, Road Foreman; Aaron Walsh, Emergency Management Director; Skip Lisle, President, Beaver Deceivers; Lauren MacArthur, Select Board Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER: Patti Smith, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

Changes to the Agenda: “Dumping of Tires on Cowpath 40” added to discussion with David Elliott, Road Foreman.

There was no unscheduled public comment.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS: Linda Peters, Town Treasurer, first presented the Highways 2018 budget for review. \$446,857.64 has been spent so far this year. \$481,730.68 had been budgeted. Next year, FEMA money is expected to come in and will provide a cushion to the budget. David asked about whether a cost of living (COL) increase to salaries would apply to a new hire or not. The Select Board agreed that the COL increase should be applied to everyone on the crew. Patti proposed adding beaver prevention to the highways budget. David thinks there would be enough money in the budget already to pay for some beaver projects. Jenkes Road and North Pond Road were mentioned as priority sites for dealing with beavers.

Linda also gave Select Board members a copy of the Town 2018 Budget for them to review. She will return at the first January meeting to discuss the 2019 budget and 2019 Town Meeting warning.

The Select Board also discussed some road repair issues that have been brought to the Select Board’s attention in the last month, including a culvert issue 1021 North Pond Road, brought up by Nate Harvey and Stratton Hill Road and Adams Brook Road culverts, brought up by Sunny Tappan. David agrees that the Stratton Hill and Adams Brook Road culverts need to be cleaned more, although they have been cleaned recently. These roads get graded once a year, usually late in the year.

The Select Board discussed the FEMA administrative grant for administrative work on the Lahar Road project. Jesse Kreitzer has confirmed that all paperwork has been submitted already except for invoices for administrative time spent on the project. Linda, David and Mike’s hours will be submitted for reimbursement as soon as Mike reports his hours. The money will come back to the Town and into the General Fund. Mike will be reimbursed for hours completed after he left the EMD position. Because Linda has been in touch with Mike about the grant, Jesse had not sent a letter to him, as proposed in the last meeting. Jesse will be in touch with Mike about details of this grant completion.

The Select Board discussed the installation of new garage doors on the old Town Garage building so that Marlboro Elementary School can store buses there. David estimates that the new doors will cost \$2000 plus labor. David agrees that putting the doors on would be beneficial to the Town Garage, as well as to the school and approves of the idea of paying for them from the Equipment Fund. Tyler will write Dan MacArthur, MES School Board member, and Andrea Howe, Bus Coordinator, to let them know of the decision to install the doors using funds from the Equipment Fund.

The complaint about tires dumped on Cowpath 40 was revisited. David confirmed that the Road Crew is not responsible for removing dumped items, and that landowners are responsible for roadside dumps on their property.

Jesse mentioned a recent complaint about downed trees on or near roadways. David said they've been out during the past two days hauling out fallen trees and getting pieces of downed trees from ditches or near roads. Jesse asked if it's worth doing a town-wide survey of roadside trees that may be in danger of falling. Jesse has a call in to Pieter van Loon, Tree Warden, about this, but hasn't heard back yet.

Skip Lisle, President of Beaver Deceivers, came to speak to the Select Board about sites on Lower Dover Road and Larrabee Road where beavers could potentially damage roads. Skip presented his Beaver Deceiver flow devices as a cost-saving measure for the town to avoid clogged culverts and avoid having to kill beavers. He states that there are often ecological benefits of creating more wetlands and habitat, including flood mitigation benefits: wetlands mitigate floods: absorb water and releases it slowly. The cost is \$2500/culvert site plus maintenance costs (which are usually minor). David shared a concern about the Beaver Deceiver already installed on Adams Cross Road, and Skip said it would be easy to adjust. On North Pond Road, the site of an unfinished Beaver Deceiver project will eventually have a pipe system installed, but is currently difficult for the Road Crew to clean. Larrabee Road and North Pond Road were identified as sites most likely to be damaged by beaver activity. Lower Dover Road and Mill Pond were also identified as sites to monitor.

Aaron Walsh, Emergency Management Director, came to the Select Board to debrief the situation during the November 27, 2018 snowstorm. Aaron described how, by 11am that day, almost all roads in town were closed (mostly because of downed power lines and trees) except for inbound Route 9. David added that several Road Crew trucks broke down, so the plow was mounted on the backhoe and this made plowing quite slow. (The trucks have now been repaired.) 87% of town was without power. FEMA is currently investigating the storm's impact on the region to determine whether or not it qualifies as a "disaster". During the storm, Aaron attempted to use the phone tree, but wasn't able to get in touch with most people because phone lines were down. Aaron did call Vermont Emergency Management to report the situation.

Aaron and the Select Board discussed how to make sure that vulnerable people in town are taken care of in emergency situations. In order to compile a complete list of vulnerable residents, Aaron suggested sending out a mailer, asking people to identify their needs and vulnerabilities in the case of an emergency. The mailer could also ask for donations and information about what

resources people have available. It would cost \$400-\$500 to send out this mailer. Jesse mentioned the statewide program, CARE, administered through 911, as well as the "Are You OK?" Program. Tyler wondered if the Marlboro Alliance could help organize people in town by neighborhood/road to check on each other. There was a question about whether the Community Center could be an officially designated gathering place. It served as an informal one during the November 26 storm.

Aaron and the Select Board agreed on the following steps for moving forward: Aaron will check in with Jennifer Mazur, Marlboro Cares, Francie Marbury, Marlboro Alliance Chair and Lauren Poster, Community Center Chair. He will also look into hosting some trainings here in town. All agreed that systems need to be simplified and tasks delegated. David suggested putting together an emergency response committee and getting support from those who already have pagers in town. It was clarified that Tyler is Aaron's backup and he does have a cell phone that works at home.

APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE OF PAY ORDERS: The Pay Orders were approved and signed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Select Board approved minutes from the regular meeting on 11/20/18. (Gibbons, Smith); The Select Board also approved the Select Board Report for the January/February, 2019 Issue of The Mixer. (Gibbons, Kreitzer)

OLD BUSINESS:

Marlboro still does not have representation on the Rescue, Inc. Board of Trustees or the Windham Solid Waste Management Board. At David Elliott's suggestion, Lauren has contacted Didi Willard, a member of the Fire Department who has a background in the health field. She is interested, but is currently seeking more information from Rescue, Inc.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tyler has passed on information about the EV charging station grant to Erika Korb, Marlboro's Energy Coordinator.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND MAIL

The Select Board acknowledged receipt of a Project Review Sheet from the State regarding the demolition of Howland and Marlboro Gardens dormitories on the Marlboro College campus and construction of a new dormitory and classroom building.

Tyler shared an update from Bill Esses, who attended the Connectivity Summit, hosted by SeVEDS. Consolidated Communications is willing to work with the town to improve connectivity.

The Select Board acknowledged the change made by the State legislature to no longer require towns to appoint a Grand Juror.

Jesse attended the senior lunch hosted by Marlboro Cares on Friday, Dec. 7, 2018 and enjoyed engaging with community members there.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.