

TOWN OF MARLBORO
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, June 27, 2019
5:00 PM

Draft

ATTENDANCE: Present were Select Board members Tyler Gibbons, Chair; Jesse Kreitzer, Vice Chair; Linda Peters, Town Treasurer; Steven John, Chair of the Marlboro Committee for Universal Broadband; and Lauren MacArthur, Select Board Assistant.

Julia von Ranson, Member, was absent.

CALL TO ORDER: Tyler Gibbons, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

There was no unscheduled public comment.

Scheduled Business: Linda Peters, Town Treasurer, spoke with the Select Board about potentially hiring a fourth road crew member. A new road crew member would cost the town approximately \$60,000-\$70,000 (including benefits). The Select Board agreed that one of the main benefits of having another road crew member would be the ability to work in two-person teams. The Select Board considered ways to solicit public input on this decision, concluding that an invitation to a regular meeting for public comment on the issue would be most appropriate. If the timing worked out, this could be in the 2020 budget and considered at Town Meeting. The Select Board discussed possible timeframes for a potential new hire, possibly starting January 1 or right after Town Meeting, in time for mud season. VLCT will be contacted for assistance in deciding how to advertise the position. Linda stated her support of the idea of hiring a fourth road crew member. David Elliott, Road Foreman, will be invited to next regular Select Board meeting. After receiving David's comments, the Select Board will then decide on a forum for public input, and next steps. A punch clock may be installed at the Town Garage.

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 6/13/19. (Kreitzer, Gibbons)

OLD BUSINESS:

Steven John, updated the Select Board on the renewed activity of the Connectivity Committee, now renamed the Marlboro Committee for Universal Broadband (MCUB). The committee recently reorganized, electing Steven John as Chair, with a new focus on acquiring universal broadband in the Town of Marlboro. The State has allocated some funds for assisting municipalities in planning and researching for the acquisition of broadband, and an appointed assistant will be available to help towns like Marlboro. Steven is hopeful that this person will help point the MCUB in the direction of appropriate grants and programs. The State is encouraging multi-community collaboration, but Steven is skeptical that this approach would work well for Marlboro.

According to a new law, fiber installation can occur on existing telephone or power lines. Steven also spoke about the Chesterfield, NH model of acquiring broadband via municipal bond funding, and the public and private sectors working together. At some point, the Select Board will be asked to provide a formal RFI to fiber vendors as the search begins for private company partners. The MCUB is currently working to make a coverage map and gathering data.

The Select Board checked in about the Emergency Management Director position. No potential candidates have been identified. Tyler will post the EMD job description.

Jesse spoke with David Elliott about the Lower Dover Road culvert site where beaver activity has been reported. David said that the culvert needs to be fully replaced before a Beaver Deceiver could be installed. Jesse suggested that Skip Lisle of Beaver Deceivers, Patti Smith, and David Elliott do a site visit together to discuss next steps.

The Select Board discussed tick-testing subsidies through the lab at UMASS. The lab collects data about tick testing and has the information readily available. The lab provides a \$15 subsidy per test when the town pays a subsidy amount as well. Jesse will check in with Linda to see if a \$500 subsidy payment could be found in the budget. The question about who would be eligible for the subsidized tests was also discussed. The sense of the Select Board was that all townspeople should have access to the subsidized tests, and using the voter checklist was suggested. This will be discussed again at the next meeting when Julia is present.

Jesse spoke with Allan MacLane and David Elliott about backup for the Fire Warden when he is out of town. Allan can only give permits on the day of the fire, but hopes to receive advance notice for planned burns, especially when they are part of planned events.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Select Board signed the Letter of Intent for the Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND MAIL:

The Select Board acknowledged receipt of information concerning permits for construction at Marlboro College.

The Select Board received information about an August 12 leadership event in Randolph. Forrest Holzafel and Julia von Ranson will be invited to attend.

The Select Board received the new Road and Bridge Standards, as prepared by VLCT to comply with the Municipal Roads General Permit. The Select Board will review them and speak to David Elliott about them before adopting them for the Town of Marlboro.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lauren B. MacArthur,
Assistant to the Select Board

