

TOWN OF MARLBORO
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, January 23, 2019
Town Office
5:00 PM

ATTENDANCE: Present were Select Board members Ty Gibbons, Chair; Jesse Kreitzer, Vice Chair; Julia von Ranson, Member; Steven John, MCUB Chair; Linda Peters, Town Treasurer; Forrest Holzapfel, Town Clerk; Lauren MacArthur, Select Board Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER: Tyler Gibbons, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

There were no changes to the agenda.

Unscheduled Public Comment:

Steven John, MCUB Chair, spoke to the Select Board about issuing a request for proposals (RFP) to broadband providers and adding the following article to the Town Meeting warning:

“To see if the Town of Marlboro will enter into a communications union district to be known as Deerfield Valley Communications Union District, under the provisions of 30 V.S.A. chapter 82”

Steven explained that the state and Windham Regional Commission are encouraging towns to join communications union districts (CUD’s). A Select-Board-appointed representative would serve as a liaison between the town and the CUD. Once the town has joined a CUD, the town would have to vote via a town meeting vote to leave the CUD, if so desired. From MCUB’s perspective, it would be best to continue on two concurrent tracks: joining the CUD and issuing an RFP to investigate provider options. The Select Board considered having an attorney review the RFP, but decided this is not necessary; the RFP is non-binding and has already been reviewed by Rob Fish and others.

The SB voted to add the CUD article in the Town Meeting warning. (Gibbons, Kreitzer)
The RFP was approved as written with edits with permission and encouragement to send it out. The public meeting to receive bids was set as 4:30pm on 2/13/20 at the Town Office. (Kreitzer, Gibbons)

SCHEDULED BUSINESS:

Linda Peters presented the proposed 2020 general budget and the highway budget. In 2019, the Town came in slightly under-budget and the highway department came in about \$3000 over-budget. Rates have gone up on recycling and this is the biggest increase in the proposed 2020 budget (from \$7500 to \$12,000). The town spent a bit more than \$9000 on recycling in 2019. The computer budget has also increased; Europa IT has been hired to help the Town with IT and upgrading system security. The Animal Control budget was discussed in light of the proposed Animal Resource Fund contribution. Currently, the Animal Control line item only includes supplies, dog tags, and licensing mailings. In reviewing appropriations requests for the coming year, the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Department’s (MVFD) appropriation was discussed. The

town's contribution to the MVFD has been \$10,000 for a number of years, but MVFD has not asked for additional funds.

Peggy Tiffany, Animal Control Officer, joined the discussion regarding the Town Meeting article regarding the town's contribution to the new Animal Resource Fund (ARF). The Marlboro Alliance voted by email on 1/23/20 to oversee ARF and serve as its umbrella organization. ARF will exist during Peggy's tenure as ACO only (because the fund is made up of funds allocated for the ACO stipend, which Peggy has chosen to divert to the ARF). Allocating funds to ARF would be approved annually via Town Meeting. At this year's Town Meeting, Tyler will give an explanation of ARF and Peggy will give additional details to help explain the fund.

Forrest suggested writing an article for the *Marlboro Mixer* article to give information regarding the MCUB and ARF Town Meeting articles. Information will be put on the town website as well.

Forrest presented the Select Board with Linda Peters' letter of resignation as Trustee of Public Funds. He spoke to the Select Board about the Trustees of Public Funds positions. The Town is required to have three Trustees of Public Funds. The Select Board accepted Linda Peters' letter of resignation and appointed Pat Mangan, Hollis Carlisle and Carol Ann Johnson as Trustees of Public Funds. (Kreitzer, von Ranson). Mangan, Hollis, and Johnson will be submitting petitions to run at Town Meeting to be elected to these positions as required by Vermont law.

Forrest also explained the history and present state of "glebe lands" within Marlboro. When the town was founded, these plots of land were established with the intent of generating tax revenue to go to the school (and church). The legislature has recently stated that municipalities may release glebe lands. In Marlboro, there are 750 acres of glebe lands and, all total, they have the potential to bring in only \$80 in tax revenue (but under the current form of taxation we use, there is no way to separate the \$80 out of each of those individual taxpayers bills, and thus these funds are currently lumped with regular property taxes). Forrest recommended the release of glebe lands and to allow current owners clear ownership of the land. The Select Board voted to relinquish the glebe lands (Kreitzer, Gibbons) and signed a document stating such. Forrest will document this in town records and will be in touch with landowners and will update deeds of properties involved.

Forrest informed the Select Board that heat pumps will not be installed in the Town Office/Post Office this year, but hopefully will be next year. The large pine tree behind the Town Office/Post Office will be removed. Also, all lights will be changed to LED's and extending the generator line to the Post Office is a priority.

Forrest shared that he hopes to speak to the auditors about including some kind of memorial for Jesse Hamilton in the Town Report and a moment of silence at Town Meeting. The Select Board supported both gestures.

The Select Board signed pay orders.

The Select Board approved the minutes from the regular Select Board meeting on 1/9/20.
(Kreitzer, Gibbons)

The Select Board received a response from Kevin Quigley, Marlboro College President, on 1/15/20 to their 1/10/20 email requesting a community meeting to provide more information about Marlboro College's merger with Emerson College (copied verbatim and pasted below):

"Der Tyler, Jesse, and Julia,

I hope that you and your families had a joyous holidays and your new year/new decade is getting off to a great start.

My apologies for my slow response. I have been on the road for the last few weeks.

At this time, I don't see a compelling reason for another community meeting. My view would change, however, if the college's circumstances changed in ways that impacted the Town Community, e.g. we decided to close, we finalized a deal with Emerson, and/or we secured a buyer for the campus.

Marlboro Town members have had numerous opportunities to learn about the College's plans through the community meeting last fall, the open forum on December 14th and the trove of information that we provided on our website on December 20th . As you are also aware, there has been extensive coverage in the Vermont media about the College plans. For community members who wish to stay informed, the best way to do so is through our website: www.marlboro.edu.

On the ongoing use of the campus, Jesse is in an excellent position to keep the community apprised of the status of things related to finding an ongoing use of the campus.

Again, when our circumstances changes I would be glad to participate in a community meeting.

With warm regards and very best new year's wishes,

Kevin Q."

Regarding the canceled Beaver Deceiver project on North Pond Road, the Select Board is willing to reconsider putting in the Beaver Deceiver at this site if the landowner agrees and Road Foreman David Elliott believes this would help preserve the road. David and Skip Lisle, Beaver Deceivers President, will confer before the next Select Board meeting.

The Select Board signed Vermont Distillers' 2020 Liquor License Renewal Application for the Department of Liquor Control.

The Select Board reviewed Carroll Concrete's Excess Weight Permit and did not take action on it due to concern about use of Higley Hill Road, in consideration of recent discussions about discouraging the use of Higley Hill Road as a "shortcut" route for vehicles. Jesse will call Carroll Concrete to discuss this and will update the Select Board at the next regular meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND MAIL:

The next *Marlboro Mixer* deadline has been moved to February 7, but one page will be reserved for the “Select Board Report,” to be submitted after approval on February 13 at the next regular Select Board meeting.

The Select Board received the corrected 2019 Equalization study results.

The road crew position has been posted and the Select Board will discuss next steps when applications come in.

Tyler checked in with Forrest and Andy Reischman about live-streaming Town Meeting. Andy is borrowing appropriate equipment. A single boom mic will work and one volunteer will be needed to run this.

David Elliott has checked in with the Halifax Road Crew to see if they’d be willing to take on plowing and sanding of Moss Hollow Rd. He is awaiting a final answer from them, although it does not sound likely that they can add this road to their route. David has also spoken with Wilmington’s Road Foreman about installing signs on the Wilmington side of Higley Hill Road. He is awaiting further information from them about how to proceed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren MacArthur, Assistant to the Select Board