

TOWN OF MARLBORO, VERMONT
~ Non-binding MINUTES of Informational Meeting ~
MARLBORO TOWN MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2021 via video conference @ 6 PM

The legal voters and interested persons are warned and notified that an informational meeting (discussion and information, no actions taken) on Articles 1-17 will meet by ZOOM video conference on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at the hour of 6:00 o'clock in the evening. Voters and interested persons can access and participate in the meeting remotely by using this link:

Link: <https://Us02web.Zoom.us/j/89755939733>

Meeting Id: 897 5593 9733

To Join By Phone: 1-646-558-8656

Legal voters of the Town of Marlboro, County of Windham, State of Vermont, are hereby warned and notified that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and pursuant to the provisions of Act 162, **all articles (1-17)** below will be voted by Australian ballot. A ballot and voting instructions were mailed to all active voters of this municipality on February 9, 2021. Additionally, the polls will be open for in-person voting on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 from 9:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M. in the Marlboro Town House.

Present: Moderator Steven John, Marlboro Select Board members Jesse Kreitzer, Julia von Ranson & Aaron Betts, Town Clerk Forrest Holzapfel, Town Treasurer Linda Peters, Andrew Richardson, Auditor Gail MacArthur, Fire Chief Rusty Sage, Nancy Anderson, Marcia Hamilton, Richard Hamilton, Andrea Howe, Sophie Dennis, Daniel Dennis, Augusta Bartlett, Celia Segar, Adrian Segar, Road Foreman David Elliott, Judith Robinson, David Holzapfel, Barbara Cole, Casey Haynes, Jason Kohn, Lauren Poster, Andra Horton, Lucy Gratwick, Donald Sherefkin, Erica Morse, Edith Mas, Francie Marbury, Susan Kunhardt, Auditor Andrew Reichsman, Alex Beck, Catherine Hamilton (39 participants at peak, fluid participation)

Steven John opened the meeting at 6:03 PM. Forrest clarified that ballots can be returned to the Town Office drop box, in the mail, or on election day in the Marlboro Town House and that so far 53 ballots have been returned. Jesse Kreitzer asked if any candidates were present and if they wanted to speak. Of those on the ballot, only Gail MacArthur was present.

Steven John said we will follow the articles in our discussion.

Article 1: To act upon the Auditors' Report.

Discussion: Gail MacArthur made numerous comments about changes to errors in the Town Report that were found after the report went to press.

Article 2: 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; Constable, one one-year term; Trustee of Public Funds, one one-year term.

Discussion: None

Article 3: To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$3,000.00 to pay the yearly stipend for the Town's three member Select Board.

Discussion: David Elliott asked what would happen if this was voted down, & discussion followed about the limitations of Australian ballot voting.

Article 4: To see if the town will vote to set Friday October 8, 2021 as the due date for property taxes, payable to the Treasurer.

Discussion: None

Article 5: To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$408.00 to support the Animal Resource Fund (ARF).

Discussion: None

Article 6: To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$300,000.00 for the General Fund.

Discussion: Jesse Kreitzer spoke to some small adjustments and allocating additional funds in various parts of the budget, all of which are incremental shifts.

Gail MacArthur asked about the increase in the recycling center costs, responded to by Aaron Betts. Aaron explained that the fees are being raised by Casella, our recycling hauler. He is checking with other area towns with a similar problem.

Article 7: To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$380,000.00 for town highways, summer and winter maintenance.

Discussion: None

Article 8: To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$35,000.00 to the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. to help defray operating expenses.

Discussion: Fire Chief Rusty Sage outlined the upcoming MVFC budget, which is \$45,000 but the \$35,000 request is level funded from last year.

Article 9: To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$50,000.00 to the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. for apparatus replacement funding.

Discussion: Rusty talked about the need for newer trucks, which could cost

\$400,000, so it would take 8 years at this appropriation level to get a new truck.

David Elliott shared some ideas about different ways of financing a new truck.

Andy Reichsman asked about what aspects the Fire Department would be looking for.

Lauren Poster asked about an electrical brown-out that occurred this past fall, and Rusty verified the department incurred losses of equipment due to faulty wiring in the station.

Catherine Hamilton asked about the Diamond REO which is 53 years old. Rusty stated that many collectors would buy this type of truck.

David Elliott mentioned that in other towns the fire company is owned by the municipality.

Gail MacArthur asked about the increase in budget at the last Town Meeting and how those funds were spent. Rusty responded with some highlights of what funds were spent on.

Article 10: To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$12,946.78 to Rescue, Inc. for services.

Discussion: None

Article 11: To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$2,000.00 to Deerfield Valley Rescue, Inc. for services.

Discussion: None

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.

Discussion: A few questions about how the funding for the Mixer works and does Meg McCarthy receive a stipend (she does). The Marlboro Alliance helps support this newsletter.

Article 13: To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$2,000.00 to the Marlboro Community Center in support of its mission to support, nurture, and enrich the Marlboro Community through its programs.

Discussion: None

Article 14: To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$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.

Discussion: Alex Beck from SEVEDS spoke to Andrew Richardson's question

“what does this do to help Marlboro”? Alex said that so far they have worked with 9 different businesses in Marlboro for one on one support services during the pandemic.

Article 15: To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$250.00 to The Moover for services.

Discussion: Jude Robinson verified that the Moover provides daily bus service between Marlboro and Brattleboro for students as well as the general public. Susan Kundhardt and Jean Boardman added comments.

Article 16: To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend the sum of \$ 11,529 for the following agencies:

Brattleboro Area Hospice, Inc.....	\$ 250.00
The Current.....	\$ 250.00
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 VT and NH.....	\$ 3,179.00
Women’s Freedom Center.....	\$ 1,200.00
American Red Cross Green Mountain.....	\$ 500.00
Green Up Vermont.....	\$ 100.00
Grace Cottage Hospital.....	\$ 1,000.00
Youth Services.....	\$ 1,000.00

Discussion: Select Board assistant Pam Burke pointed out that the Current and Moover have now merged but appear in two different places on the warning and ballot. Treasurer Linda Peters stated that this could be fixed. Other organizations were mentioned as doing good works.

Article 17: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to authorize the town to borrow funds in anticipation of tax revenue.

Discussion: None

Gail MacArthur thanked Jesse Kreitzer for his service on the Select Board, echoed by Steven John, particularly in Jesse's representation for the town in the circumstances surrounding the closing of Marlboro College.

Adjourned at 7:26 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Forrest Holzapfel, Town Clerk