

**Minutes  
Town Of Marlboro  
Regular Select Board Meeting  
Thursday, March 25, 2021  
5 pm Zoom Call Online**

Present: *In attendance via Zoom, due to COVID-19 precautions:* Julia von Ranson, Select Board Chair; Aaron Betts, Vice-Chair; Jim Agate, Select Board member; Pam Burke, Select Board Assistant; David Elliot, Road Crew Chief; Rusty Sage Fire Chief; Lisa Hecht, Marcia Hamilton, Nancy Anderson members of the public

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm.

Change to agenda - adopting the Local Emergency Management Plan LEMP

The Minutes from March 11th were approved. (Von Ranson, Betts) and the Pay Orders signed. A liquor license was approved for Beer Naked Brewery (Von Ranson, Betts). A Use Agreement for a Hogback Conservation Area Bird Banding Project was approved. (Von Ranson, Betts)

**Open Meeting Law and questions concerning the Marlboro Fire Department**

At the last Select Board meeting, Lisa Hecht asked the Select Board to find out if the Marlboro Fire Department Trustees Meetings are subject to open meeting laws. Forrest consulted with town attorney, Paul Gillies, who informed us that municipally connected non-profits (Fire Department, HMCA, Marlboro Alliance, etc) are NOT subject to the Open Meeting Law. Paul recommended that as ethics and transparency are extremely important, that such organizations get an audit done every 3 years or so which the public can see to remove doubts over the potential misuse of funds.

Lisa Hecht disagreed with the lawyer's opinion. Lisa said she's worried about the fire department and thinks they are not being transparent. David Elliot asked if the select board could appoint a committee to look into it. Fire Chief Rusty Sage said that he can not speak for the trustees, but that they believe they are not subject to open meeting laws. Rusty said that the increase in the amount of money the Fire Department asked from the town for this year is because the fire department has not been asking for enough money in past years to set aside funds for new equipment. Julia asked if the Fire Department has an active board of trustees at the moment. Rusty said they did but are looking for a few more trustees. Rusty stated that the trustees have been meeting remotely. Lisa asked why the trustees were not interacting with the Select Board as they did in the past. Lisa would like to see that the money from the town be contingent on the trustees having a Select Board member or another town voter serve as a representative from the Select Board on the Fire Department's Board of Trustees to be a communication channel between the town and the trustees. David said that in years past, the town would vote on the Fire Department trustees, but that is no longer the case.

Julia will go back to the town lawyer and ask questions that came up during the meeting. Julia

will invite Raif Southworth, MFD Board of Trustees President and Treasurer, to the next Select Board meeting.

### **Town Truck Purchase**

Dave Elliot asked for approval to purchase a new (used) truck for the town through a dealer with which he has had success in the past. The truck is a Western Star with a Detroit motor and which have received good reviews. The dealer has not yet given the town a quote for the truck that will be traded in. David is estimating out of pocket cost for the truck will amount to around \$50,000 for a truck that is sold new for \$170,000. David did wonder if we should purchase the truck through a low-interest loan instead of paying out of pocket, but town treasurer Linda Peters recommended buying it outright because the town has the funds in the bank. The truck will be gone over by a third party before the town takes ownership of it. The purchase price is \$62,000 without a trade-in.

The Select Board voted to approve the purchase of a used truck for the highway department for the asking price of \$62,000.

(Von Ranson, Betts)

### **Request from townspeople to consider paving the section of Moss Hollow Rd. from where the paving currently ends to Musicians Way**

David Elliot said he understands why there was this request, as there was a big hole there this year. David said that we have more well-traveled roads in town that could use the blacktop. David said that if the town's funding requests are granted by the state this year, then that funding is already slated to be used to repave portions of Highly Hill and Auger Hole that require it. David clarified that Moss Hollow is a class 3 road, state funding is only for class 1 & 2 roads. (Auger Hole, Higley Hill, South Rd & Ames Hill are the only class 2 roads in town.) To pave part of Moss Hollow, the town would have to fund it ourselves. David said that it can be a problem to pave a short section like the one suggested because paving outfits would not come out for such a small job. David suggested that the road crew could work on the ditches in the spot and possibly do some work with filter fabric or stone base to improve the situation. David is happy to explain on the phone what they could do to improve things to anyone who calls the town garage.

### **GEARS grant admin work for the Community Center**

The Select Board appointed Jessie Krietzer to continue to handle the administration of the GEARS grant for the Community Center. (Von Ranson, Betts)

### **Discussion of in-person Select Board meetings**

Pam suggested that if the Select Board wanted to return to in-person meetings, that it would be safest to hold them outside and socially distanced, and all in attendance should wear masks.

Aaron said he'd like to wait until more people have received vaccines. Julia suggested waiting until everyone on the board is vaccinated to discuss returning to in-person meetings. Julia proposed revisiting the discussion at the first meeting of May.

### **Annual Appointments and other Business**

The Select Board adopted the Select Board Rules of Procedures. (Von Ranson, Betts)

The Select Board adopted the Conflict of Interest Policy. (Von Ranson, Betts)

The Select Board designated the Brattleboro Reformer as the official newspaper for publications and notices. (Von Ranson, Betts)

The Select Board designated [marlborovt.us](http://marlborovt.us) as the official town website. (Von Ranson, Betts)

The Select Board appointed the following: Betts, von Ranson)

Matthew Tell, 1 year to 2022, Development Review Board Alternate

Allan McLane, 1 year to 2022, E911 Coordinator

Allan McLane, 1 year to 2022, Town Communication Coordinator

Robert Anderson, 1 year to 2022, Inspector of Lumber, Shingles, and Wood

Pieter van Loon, 1 year to 2022, Tree Warden

Edie Mas, 1 year to 2022, Windham Regional Commissioner

The Board also appointed Jean Boardman to replace Bill Esses on the DV Fiber Board

The Board approved the Local Emergency Management Plan (Von Ranson, Agate)

### **Casella Recycling Contract, Increasing Costs**

The Board is investigating an alternative hauler for our recycling, as our costs have greatly increased. Triple T would offer single-stream recycling, Goodenough would keep materials separate as they are now. It appears that both Goodenough and Triple T would charge the town significantly less than Casella is currently charging. The town's contract with Tam/Casella is expired and they no longer want to be our hauler. Jim will ask Goodenough for a formal bid, Aaron will ask TT for a formal bid.

### **King Cemetery (Fox Rd.) Expansion**

Forrest contacted Town attorney Paul Gillies about the King Cemetery expansion to see if the town needed to execute a deed or transfer the property. It turns out that the deed for the Muster Field property at Book 26 Page 446 already states that expansion of the cemetery is an accepted use of the land, Pieter Van Loon with the Land Trust has verified this.

The Board voted to approve the expansion of the King Cemetery as outline in Book 26 Page 446 (Von Ranson, Betts)

**Info Items and Mail**

SV Economy Project upcoming workshops

SVEDS annual report

SVEDS online summit May 12-14

The Board moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. (Von Ranson, Betts)  
The motion passed. The Board entered executive session at 6:29. The Board exited the executive session at 6:45 pm and the meeting was adjourned.