

Draft Minutes

Town Of Marlboro Regular Select Board Meeting

Thursday, December 23, 2021, 6pm Via Zoom Online

Present: Julia von Ranson, Select Board Chair; Aaron Betts, Select Board Co-Chair; Jim Agate, Select Board Member; Nick Morgan, Select Board Assistant; Mike Purcell – Hogback; Will Shakespeare – MVFD, Andrew Richardson – MVFD Action Chief; Michael Schneider – MVFD Treasurer; Annie Bartlett – MVFD.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm.

Identify Any Changes to Agenda – Two administrative issues were added:

Motion to return to remote (virtual via Zoom) meetings for the time being due to Covid-19. (von Ranson/Betts) – Passed unanimously

Motion to return to signing of pay orders to be handle by single Board Member at Town Office rather than at Meeting, due to Covid-19 for the time being. (von Ranson/Betts) – Passed unanimously

Scheduled Business

6:00 – 6:10 Unscheduled Open Public Comment – none

6:10 Approval of Minutes from December 9, 2021 – moved (von Ranson, Betts)

Passed Unanimously

Signature of Pay Orders – done per above motion

New Business

Mike Purcell - To discuss removal of building on Hogback property and using funds to defray costs of the project.

Mike Purcell, representing the HPC spoke in regard to the “First Aid” building on the Hogback property that has become an attractive nuisance and should be taken down. Due to environmental issues, the removal of this building presents several issues including environmental concerns and can not simply be knocked down and carted away. Mike presented the Board with an older estimate to remove the building, which needs to be updated and was seeking financial assistance from the Town (as the property) owner to defray the costs. Mike put forward that the communications tower on the property pays a lease fee to the Town and that these funds could be used for this purpose (covering the expected costs in two to three years).

After discussion, the Board advised Mike, that subsequent to revised cost estimates, the Board would review and discuss the issue with the Town Treasurer and to get back to Mike to discuss these financial issues further.

MVFD to discuss 2022 funding.

Several members from the Board of the MVFD (including Acting Chief Andrew Richardson) came before the board to introduce the new members of the board and to discuss their goals to improve the MVFD and to present their request for funding to be included in the Town’s budget to be voted on at Town Meeting time. After a general discussion of the MVFD’s top priorities moving forward (replacement equipment for 50-year-old fire truck, refurbishment of the Fire House, and plans for maintenance of hydrant systems, the MVFD formally requested the following: \$38,500 to help defray general operating costs and \$50,000 to replace and acquire equipment, including a new Truck to replace the current 50-year-old truck currently in service.

The Board accepted these requests to be included in the Town Meeting Warning for the Town to vote on in March 2022.

Discussion and approval of BDCC/SeVEDS Grant Writing Seminar (\$80) for Nick and other Board Members.

The BDCC/SeVEDS is offering an eight-week seminar on grant writing at a cost of \$80 per participant. The Board recognized that Grant writing will continue to be of growing importance as more State and Federal monies are coming down the pipeline and as such it would be advantageous for Nick to attend these seminars to better serve the Board and the Town. Additionally, interest was expressed by other Board members that they may look to attend this seminar as well.

Motion to approve \$80 cost of the Grant Writing seminar for Nick and for other Board members as well who wish to do so. (von Ranson/Betts) – Passed unanimously.

West River Valley Thrives presentation to the Board in the Future

This discussion was tabled pending the outcome of the vote on the Retail Cannabis issue at Town Meeting.

Old Business

Continued review of 2022 Town Meeting warning and, if possible, approval of warning pending any changes or additions for final approval at 1/13/22 Select Board Meeting.

The Board reviewed the 2022 Town Meeting Warning as prepared by Forrest and Nick. The Board noted that there were a few articles that were still in process (awaiting necessary petitions and signatures) as well as a couple of budget requests still being finalized. In order to facilitate the production of the ballots and move the process forward, the Board provided preliminary approval (unanimous) of the Warning pending resolution to the above issues and will take a formal vote on the Warning at the next Board meeting on January 13, 2022, a week prior to the 1/20/2022 deadline.

Review of Town Administrator job description, approval of position and moving forward with hiring process.

After review of the job description created by Town Officials, the Board discussed the advantages of creating the position and felt strongly that moving in this direction was in the best interest of the Town. Motion to approve the position of Town Administrator and to proceed with the implementation of the hiring process. (von Ranson/Betts) – Passed unanimously.

Update on employment search for additional Road Crew Member.

Several resumes for the position have been received. While reaching out to Dave for his input, the Board requested that Nick provide them copies of the resumes for review and possible scheduling of interviews to fill the slot.

Continued discussion on Recycling issues and report from Aaron on information from hauler.

Aaron has been in touch with the hauler (Goodenough) and is waiting for some suggestion on how to best handle the Town's recycling. It was put forward that it might be advantageous to set up a regular schedule of container emptying as a way for residents can plan their recycling and potentially avoid the situation of full containers. Aaron took action item to discuss this with the hauler and to communicate with the Road Crew on the feasibility of this. The Board requested that Nick include this issue on the agenda for the next meeting after information has been gathered.

Adjourn: 7:23pm