

Minutes

Town Of Marlboro Regular Select Board Meeting Thursday, January 13, 2022, 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; Forrest Holzapfel, Town Clerk; Linda Peters, Treasurer; Andrea Howe, Assistant Treasurer; Mary Sargent, Zoning Administrator.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.

Scheduled Business

Identify Any Changes to Agenda – Review/discussion of waiving penalty fee charged to Subjects.

After discussion regarding the fact that there was some confusion and inaccuracies on the town side regarding the regulations relating to the Subject's small shed/camp building, the Board considered waiving the penalty fee, while maintaining the permit fee and fee for DRB hearing. The sense of the Board was that since the town regulations were somewhat unclear, the town should bear some responsibility in the situation and therefore waive the penalty fee.

Motion: Waive the penalty but retain the permit fee and the DRB hearing costs. (Agate/von Ranson) – Passed unanimously.

6:00 – 6:10 Unscheduled Open Public Comment – Steven John – DVFiber: Brief outline of progress in fiber optic internet buildout. Steven noted that things are moving forward and noted that he will be attending the 1/27/22 Board meeting for a full update and Q & A from the Board and Marlboro residents.

6:10 Approval of Minutes from December 23, 2021 – moved (von Ranson, Betts)

Passed Unanimously

Signature of Pay Orders – done

New Business

Town employees pay rate increase for 2022

Andrea and Linda reviewed the Town 2022 budget and reviewed several options for town employees pay increase (6%, 8%, & 10%). The Board discussed these options, along with information that there was no increase approved last year and ultimately decided that a 10% increase this year would be best, given several factors, including but not exclusively based on the current increase in the cost of living, the fact that there was no increase of any kind last year, and the fact that Marlboro's structure has been significantly below that of similar and surrounding towns.

Motion: Approve a 10% increase in pay rate for all Marlboro Town employees (excluding the listers) for the 2022 Town budget. (von Ranson/Betts) – Passed unanimously.

Final review and approval of 2022 Town Meeting Warning, including finalized budget numbers

After the above decision regarding pay rate for the Town, the Board reviewed the 2022 budget with Linda and Andrea. In addition to the pay hike, and the new positions (Town Administrator & Road Crew Member), the Board also reviewed the impact to the budget of the population increases due to the 2020 census, which will impact the budget due to several items (such as the Rescue, Inc. emergency services fees) that are tied to the population.

Linda summarized the budgetary numbers and advised the Board that the numbers that should be included on the 2022 Town Meeting Warning (and subsequent Ballot) are \$420,000 for the Town's budget and \$420,000 for the Road Crew budget.

Page Two – January 13, 2022, Select Board Minutes

Once the budgetary numbers were reviewed the Board reviewed the remainder of the Town Meeting Warning and noted that there may be an increase to the Rescue, Inc. amount, but that the remainder of the funding issues, articles and petitions were all in order and acceptable.

During this review, the Board discussed the possibility of increasing the Select Board Member stipend from a total of \$3,000 (\$1,000 per member) to \$3,300 (\$1,100), following along with the 10% increase awarded to all town employees.

Motion: Increase the Select Board stipend by 10% for a total of \$3,300 for the year in the 2022 budget. (von Ranson/Betts) – Passed unanimously.

Once this was finalized, the Board considered the 2022 Town Meeting Warning as a whole.

Motion: Approve the 2022 Town Meeting Warning, with knowledge that Article 14 (Rescue, Inc.) may need to be adjusted. (von Ranson/Betts) – Passed unanimously.

Scheduling of 2022 Pre-Town Meeting Select Board meeting

As dictated by regulation, the Select Board will hold an informational pre-town meeting meeting on Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 6:00pm (via Zoom due to Covid-19). Proper warning of this meeting will be published per regulation.

Trustees of Public Funds – Forrest Holzapfel

Forrest reviewed with the Board that there are currently two small town endowments that had necessitated the establishment of a three-member board of trustees of public funds. The term for this Board is ending and at the suggestion of the Board itself and Forrest, the Board is really not needed as the funds involved are quite small and can easily be administered by the Select Board. Forrest suggested that the Select Board not renew this board on the 2022 ballot.

This will be tabled while Forrest double checks any regulations that may be involved in not re-electing this board.

Old Business

Progress report on Town Administrator job posting & search for Road Crew Member

Nick reported that the ads for the Town Administrator job have been placed in several newspapers, posted on the internet and the website and several resumes have been received. On the Road Crew, David Elliot is reviewing the existing candidates and the Board hopes to start the active interview process soon.

Continued discussion on Recycling issues and report from Aaron

Aaron has been in contact with Goodenough (the hauler) and the Road Crew and is moving forward with investigating the feasibility of regularly (weekly/bi-weekly) scheduled pickups. Also being reviewed is the possibility of moving to a cardboard only container. Aaron has also researched some improved signage and the board also discussed the possibility of having specific drop off times. No action is required at this time.

Further discussion on Hogback First Aid building demolition

This item was tabled until the next meeting as there was no new information to discuss at this time.

Adjourn: 7:43pm