

## Minutes

### Town Of Marlboro Regular Select Board Meeting

Thursday, April 14, 2022, 6:00pm

Present Aaron Betts, Select Board Chair; Jim Agate, Select Board Vice-Chair; Molly Welch, Select Board Member; Nick Morgan, Select Board Assistant; Forrest Holzapfel, Town Clerk; Edie Mas & Will Shakespeare, Marlboro Planning Commission; Residents: Richard Ward, Jim Herrick, Dave Matt, Lindy Coreman, Peggy Tiffany, Woody Bernhard, Jesse Kreitzer

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm.

#### Scheduled Business

Identify Changes to the Agenda – See initial items listed under “New Business”

Unscheduled Open Public Comment - None

Approval of Minutes from March 24, 2022 – moved (Betts/Agate) - Passed Unanimously

Approval of Minutes from April 7, 2022 – moved (Betts/Welch) - Passed Unanimously

Signature of Pay Orders – Table to end of meeting and them completed

#### New Business

Approve Steven John as lead representative to DVFiber and Jean Boardman & Bob Anderson as alternates. Motion to approve appointments to DVFiber board: Steven John as Lead Representative; Jean Boardman & Bob Anderson as alternates. (Betts/Agate) Passed Unanimously

In order for the Town’s Treasurer to begin the process of seeking a loan from Brattleboro Savings and Loan for the purchase of Highway Equipment (see below), the Treasurer seeks from the Board approval to get a “Tax Anticipation Note”.

Nick relayed to the Board that this was not approval to actually secure the loan but to simply begin the process and that the bank had requested this Tax Anticipation Note in order to begin the process. After brief discussion that this would not grant approval of acquiring the loan, but a first step, the Board moved to approve this action.

Motion: The Board approves the Town Treasurer to seek a **Tax Anticipation Note** in expectation of future tax revenue as requested by the Brattleboro Savings and Loan as part of the initial loan process.

(Betts/Welch) – Passed unanimously

Review and discuss need for and acquiring loans for purchase of two pieces of Highway equipment: Truck and Loader.

The Board reviewed the need for both a large truck and a loader as both pieces of equipment are old and close to complete breakdown and require large amount of time and money to keep running properly. Nick reviewed the various sources of funding for this equipment:

- 1) For the Loader, the town could take advantage of the Municipal Equipment Loan Fund (deadline for application 4/15/22) through the Vermont Office of the Treasurer. This process would take a couple of months to hear back from the State (end of June) and while this would work for funds for the Loader which is in slightly better shape than the truck, it would not work for the truck. Nick further explained that these funds are allocated at 75% of the purchase price at a 2% interest rate with a 25% match by the municipality. Nick noted that in discussions with Linda Peters (Town Treasurer) and Andrea Howe (Assistant Treasurer), he was advised that the Town’s Highway Equipment Account could handle these payments as the town regularly pays into this account to cover the usage and maintenance of the Town’s equipment and would not adversely impact the Town’s Highway budget.

The Board reviewed the need for a replacement loader and beneficial aspects of the Municipal Equipment Fund financing and determined that there was a need for a loader, and it would be good to take advantage of this State program and its beneficial financing terms. Equally important was the consideration that while applying for this funding had to be done by 4/15/22 to meet the program’s deadline, it was noted that while simply making the application did not require the Board (and the Town) to commit to the actual purchase. Ultimately, the decision to purchase the loader would be made at a later date and should the State Funding come through, it could always be turned down (or even the application pulled prior to the State Commission’s meeting in late June). With this thought in mind that the Board was basically only considering the submission of the application for funding and not an actual approval of a purchase, the Board acted as follows:

## Select Board Minutes – 4/14/22 – Page Two

Motion: Approve Nick to proceed with the application process only to the State Municipal Equipment Fund for 75% financing for the purchase of a Loader (~\$106,000) to be match at 25% by the Town.

(Betts/Agate) – Passed unanimously

- 2) The Board next turned to the need to quickly purchase a truck to replace one of the current trucks that is in very poor condition and has basically reached the end of its usefulness. David Elliot located and submitted a quote for a 2014 Western Star Plow Truck for \$86,500. Also, submitted with the quote was potential financing with Daimler at ~5.84% for three years. Prior to purchase, the Town's Treasurer is seeking more favorable terms with Brattleboro Savings & Loan, both in terms of percentage and term. As with the Loader above, the Town's Equipment Account would be able to absorb these costs without dramatically impacting the Highway budget.

The Board discussed the necessity and speed of this purchase. The Board was split on the need for rapid action with one member seeking more time to gather more information and evaluation of the need. Other members put forth that the need was clear, the current Truck was not only in poor shape, but could actually be somewhat hazardous and its repair and down time was causing increased "manhours" and costs to keep it on the road. After discussion a motion was put forward.

Motion: Approve the purchase (\$86,500) of the 2014 Western Star Plow Truck using the current financing option from Daimler, while also investigating more beneficial conditions from Brattleboro S & L.

(Betts/Welch) – Passed two votes AYE, one vote NAY

### Planning Commission to discuss Village Center redesignation

Edie Mas & Will Shakespeare from the Planning Commission came to present to the Board the current status of the Commissions efforts to renew the Village Center redesignation. Will gave a brief history of the process and that the current 8-year designation was running out. Both Edie and Will noted the importance of a renewal to be renewed to benefit from several State and County (and even Federal) programs and grants that could and would benefit the town should they be sought and obtained. In order for the Planning Commission to submit for renewal they need and requested a motion from the Board. Both Edie and Will presented several opportunities that would be available and how they would benefit the town and the sense of the Board was very positive to both the renewal and the opportunities is provided.

Motion: Authorize the Planning Commission to submit the application for the Village Center re-designation for the Town of Marlboro. (Betts/Agate) – Passed unanimously.

### Francie Marbury draft of letter to Windham County Sheriff's Office

The Board decided to table this issue as Francie was not in attendance and requested Nick to put this on the 4/28/22 agenda and for Nick to extend an invitation to Francie to attend in order to discuss the letter and next steps.

### Discussion of Higley Hill Road Conditions and possible solutions including possible paving

Spurred by the recent considerable "mud season", concerns regarding Marlboro Road conditions were discussed by several residents. In an email to the Board, one resident posited the possibility of paving stretches of Marlboro's dirt roads, most notably parts of Higley Hill Road. While the discussion of paving was discussed briefly, the discussion both by the Board and the residents mostly focused on how to improve the condition of the current dirt roads. (It was noted that in order to even consider paving, the existing dirt road base would need to be repaired and brought up to topflight condition, which to some extent would negate the need to pave.)

There were many comments from the residents in attendance:

The main issue that came up again and again from the residents concerned the underlying conditions of the dirt roads and the need for a comprehensive plan to make repairs and create a plan to improve maintenance into the future. Several specifics were pointed out, including areas of Higley Hill Road that have been allowed to "get too wide", fostering speeding and aggressive driving. A major concern amongst the residents due to the dirt roads conditions was expressed in terms of safety, the access of emergency vehicles and the impact on residents' lifestyles. The overall consensus of the residents was that while paving is not the panacea, a real plan and action on improving and maintaining the dirt roads is of paramount importance.

### Select Board Minutes – 4/14/22 – Page Three

To the above end, resident Jim Herrick offered his experience and expertise to assist the Board in reviewing, analyzing, understanding, and planning to effectively and efficiently start to build a plan for the roads. The Board was highly appreciative of the offer and advised Jim that they would be in touch to coordinate things and make an initial plan to “walk” those sections of roads in the most need of repair and rebuilding. Nick took an action item to coordinate this and to be in touch with Jim and the Board to facilitate these actions.

There was no motion or immediate action to be taken at the meeting, but the sense of the Board was strongly in favor of moving strongly to resolve this issue and come up with a plan of action.

#### Initial thoughts on ARPA buckets for expenditures (Forrest & Nick)

Forrest and Nick presented initial thoughts on generalized areas where the ARPA funds should be allocated: Broadband, General Repair and Maintenance of Town Buildings, Town Improvements (roads, etc.), and Grant Match (roads and other projects). The purpose is to create a framework within which the Board can evaluate and plan the best usage of these valuable funds. The Board saw this a good start and is looking forward to expanding on these basic groupings and facilitating the optimal use of ARPA funding.

#### Authorize David to contract with Bummy for work on roads while Road Crew is a man down.

In order to handle the need for road crew manhours while the crew is short-handed, Nick noted that the Board could authorize David Elliot to hire “Bummy” Turner as needed.

Motion: Approve David Elliot to request and hire “Bummy” Turner as need to assist in road maintenance while road crew is shorthanded. (Welch/Agate) – Passed unanimously.

#### Discuss how to proceed with Broadband for Town, possibly create subcommittee to coordinate information.

Nick took the action item to be the front person for the Board on the Broadband/DVFiber/CCI-Fidium. His first action will be to reach out to and speak with Steven John at DVFiber for an update on the status and what plans are in place for DVFiber to move forward.

#### **Old Business**

Sign contract with TTT Trucking for recycling hauling based on details approved at the 4/7/22 meeting. – Done

**Adjourned: 7:56pm**