

Minutes

Town Of Marlboro Regular Select Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 9, 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; Mary Sargent, Zoning Commissioner; Jean Boardman & Steven John, DVFiber

The meeting was called to order at 6 :03pm.
Identify Any Changes to Agenda: None

Scheduled Business

Unscheduled Open Public Comment - None
Approval of Minutes from May 26, 2022 – (Betts/Agate) – Passed unanimously
Signature of Pay Orders - Done

New Business

Review and discussion on Town Office (and other municipal buildings) maintenance and repair (lights & windows)

Forrest reviewed the cost estimates he received for replacing and upgrading the windows in the Town Office which would greatly increase the energy efficiency of the building in terms of heating costs. The estimates for the windows (Anderson 400) from Hamshaw's for all the windows including windows in the Post Office portion of the building came to approximately \$12,000 plus an additional installation cost of \$4,500-\$5,500. The Board asked Forrest to get a firmer installation cost estimate prior to final approval but agreed to vote on approval of the actual window purchase to insure on time delivery due to expected lead-times.

Motion: To approve the purchase of windows (using ARPA funds) for the Town Office building based on the estimates provided by Hamshaw and to process the order ASAP to insure timely delivery. (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously).

After the "window" discussion, Forrest presented the plan to convert the Town Office's lighting from its current fluorescents to LED. Forrest advised the Board that he had received an estimate from ERL & Associates for the conversion coming in at \$2,619.20. Forrest noted that the conversion will use the existing fixtures and just transition to LED. The benefits of this project will be reduced energy expenses as LED lights are much more efficient and use less electricity than fluorescents.

Motion: To accept and approve the estimate from ERL for the conversion of the Town Office's lighting fixtures to LED using ARPA funds. (Betts/Agate – Passed unanimously).

Molly did ask Forrest about the investigation into "heat pumps" and Forrest noted that he was still waiting for information and would report back to the Board once information was available.

The Board had further discussion on Town infrastructure, most notably asking David Elliot to create a list of possible projects up at the Highway garage. David advised that he would assemble a list for the board to review.

Review and discussion of road projects and upcoming needs of the road crew.

The Board and David discussed various plans for road maintenance both in terms of "regular" funding options such as the Vtrans Grants-in-Aid program as well as the potential for ARPA funding through other grant programs. David will be working with Jim to develop an overall plan of action and projects to target. One item that was discussed is the possibility of an excavator (tracked with sideways blade to facilitate the creation of roadside drainage ditches.

Nick presented David with several potential grant programs for his review. After reviewing them, David noted that he would advise Nick which might be beneficial and fulfill a need, after which Nick will proceed to investigate requirements of the Grants and proceed per Board direction.

Speeding and Heavy Trucks on Upper Dover Road.

A resident advised the Board that there was a speeding issue on Upper Dover Road as well as a use of the road by "overweight" trucks. Nick took a driving tour of the area and reported to the Board that speed limit and weight limit signs needed to be installed on Upper Dover Road and noted that he would check with VTrans and the WRC on the process of installing signs as well as working with the Sheriff's Department to calm the speeding on the road.

Locust Tree on Cowpath 40.

After communicating with the resident regarding the responsibility for the Locust Tree on Cowpath 40, it appears that for the present time the issue is pending. Nick advised that he will tentatively place the issue on the agenda for 6/23/22 should further action needs to be taken.

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During this discussion, Mary Sargent brought up that GMP or whomever is trimming the tress is not disposing of the “tree-waste” properly, leaving it along side the road, impacting the ditches which impacts proper drainage. David Elliot will investigate the issue and advise Nick who will reach out to GMP to seek correction of the issue and ensure that they are properly policing the clean-up of their projects.

Nomination of Eva Grimaldi as alternate to DRB.

Motion: Nominate Eva Grimaldi to the DRB as an alternate. (Betts/Agate – Passed unanimously).

Sign Humane Society contract.

The Board reviewed the annual Humane Society Contract to supply the town with assistance with animal control and agreed to proceed and sign the contract. Motion: Approve the signing of the 22/23 contract with the Humane Society. (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously).

Update and review of DVFiber proposal for ARPA fund donation and the Point of Presence Contract.

Jean Boardman advised the Board of DVFiber’s analysis of what will be required for providing financial assistance to those in need of help getting connected to DVFiber’s broadband service. The amount discussed pertains solely to the initial connection cost and does not involve financial assistance for monthly charges. Based on the analysis, DVFiber requested that the Town of Marlboro contribute \$24,652 to DVFiber for DVFiber to use to financial aid those who qualify with assistance in connecting to the Broadband network.

Motion: The Town of Marlboro will commit to provide DVFiber with the amount of \$24,652 (from ARPA funds) to assist the DVFiber in their assistance to the Unserved and Underserved so they can be hooked up to Fiber Broadband. (Betts/Agate – Passed unanimously).

Regarding the PoP contract with DVFiber for their establishing a hub connection at the Town Office, the Board advised Steven John and Jean Boardman that they needed a bit more time to review the contract prior to signing it. Nick asked if signing the contract at the next Board meeting on 6/26/22 would be timely enough and Steven advised that this would be fine, Nick stated that he would put this on the next agenda.

Old Business

Final vote on Rescue, Inc. contract – sign contract if approved.

After reviewing the new three-year Rescue, Inc. contract and Rescue, Inc.’s response to the Board’s letter of inquiry, the Board was satisfied that Rescue, Inc. is committed to continuing to supply emergency services to Marlboro (and the surrounding area). Upon review, the Board determined that the contract was very fair and that the yearly increases were small and seemed well within acceptable levels.

Motion: Approve and sign the Rescue, Inc. contract as presented for 22/23, 23/24, & 24/25 for Rescue, Inc. to provide Emergency Services to the Town as they are currently. (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously).

Hamilton Road Plans for GMP – Tabled, to be reviewed at next meeting (6/23/22)

First Aid Station reclamation – how to proceed.

At the present time, Nick was unable to find WRC or BDCC grant money to help with costs in demolition of the First Aid building. The Board recognized that discussion with the Hogback conservancy need to be had to figure out how to move forward with dealing with the First Aid building. Nick took the action item to reach out and see if the Conservancy could attend a meeting to discuss this issue.

Further discussion on Energy and Conservation commissions.

Currently, there has been little interest from the residents to volunteer to fill these commissions. Nick will be attended Planning Commission meeting on 6/14/22 where discussions on possibly having some PC members transfer over to either of these commission. Once meeting is held, Nick will advise the Board.

Motion to move to executive session to discuss personnel questions: (Betts/Agate – Passed unanimously).

After returning from Executive Session - Motion: Proceed with interviewing potential new hire for Road Crew (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously).

Motion to Adjourn: (Betts/Welch) – Passed unanimously – 8:21p