

Draft Minutes
Town Of Marlboro Select Board Meeting
Thursday, November 10, 2022, 6:00pm

Attendees: Aaron Betts, Chair; Jim Agate, Vice-Chair; Molly Welch, Member; Nick Morgan, Assistant/Town Admin; Andrew Richardson, Road Foreman; Nora Wilson, Resident.

Call to order – 6:02p

Regular Select Board Meeting Agenda

Identify Any Changes to Agenda: None

Scheduled Business

Unscheduled Open Public Comment - none

Approval of Minutes from 10/27/22, and 11/3/2022 Special Meeting. (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously)

Signature of Pay Orders - Done

New Business

Aaron sign DMV information request - Done

Beaver Dam Issues on Jenckes Road – Resident requested that the Select Board and Highway Department investigate the installation of a Beaver Deceiver (or other Beaver mitigation solution) on Jenckes Road. Nick was tasked with contacting Vermont Wildlife to price out a Deceiver and Andrew noted that he would reach out to local resident about building one at a lower cost. Issue to be revisited at 11/22/22 meeting.

Approval of appointments:

- Approve Fred Muschler to be Marlboro Representative to Rescue, Inc. Board – (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously).
- Approve Hannah Brookman & Lucia Kloster as members of the Conservation Commission – (Betts/Agate – Passed unanimously).

Discuss and Review Multi-Year Road Plan, including equipment needs

Many items were discussed here with the first topic being the sale of older trucks and other scrap metal and items. The Board approved Andrew (Road Foreman) to proceed as he sees fit in disposing of scrap and older materials, advising the Board of sales and keeping the Town Treasurer in the loop as sales are made.

The Board and Andrew discussed the three-year priority list that Jim Agate (supplemented by additional items by Molly Welch) had assembled which included developing a plan for cleaning up the Highway Department location (especially scrap metal and tires); working up an existing “small tool” inventory and replacement plan (quotes from three companies); developing a “large equipment” maintenance plan, including a plan for what maintenance would be handled in house and which would be handled by outside garage; generate an inclusive maintenance schedule to maintain equipment at peak performance levels; how Select Board could assist Andrew in generating Road Maintenance & Repair plan; Andrew confirmed that at this time he was leaning towards using Twin State for outside repair needs; discussed developing an inventory of existing road signs (curve, speed, weight limits, etc.) and what and where more signs are needed and processing an order for needed signage; discussed how everyone could work together to continue to develop a comprehensive plan for the general maintenance and repair of the Town’s roads.

In addition to the discussion of the three-year plan list, other items discussed in relationship to the Highway Department were:

- Request by Andrew to purchase a used woodchipper in order to do clearing during the winter. The Board was receptive to the idea, and asked Andrew to submit a quote for one for the Board (and Treasurer) to consider.
- To procure for Andrew a laptop computer to facilitate his ability to use email, word, excel, etc. in the course of his job as foreman. Motion: To approve the purchase of a laptop for Andrew (Betts/Agate – Passed unanimously). Nick was tasked with working with the Treasurer and Town Clerk in this purchase and getting all appropriate software and security from the Town’s computer services provider: Europa.

Select Board Minutes – November 10, 2022 – Page Two

Jim Agate brought up the feasibility of putting motion-activated lighting on the exterior of the Town Office/Post Office building to help with visibility (and safety) in the parking area of this building. Andrew noted that he would look into it, and the Board as well noted that once costs and such were determined that this would be a worthwhile project.

Finally, Andrew and the Board discussed the information that there is approximately \$175,000 in FEMA money stemming from the 2008 Ice Storm that has not yet been expended. Andrew put forth that these funds could be put towards the purchase of an excavator (used) which is badly needed for ditching and maintaining the roads in good fashion. The sense of the Board was that this could be an avenue to take, and asked Andrew to keep the Board informed on this and also the status/condition of the Town's current Backhoe which is approaching its end of usefulness.

Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 6:58pm (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously).

Exit Executive Session at 7:32pm

Motion to Authorize Road Foreman Andrew Richardson to offer Robert Germon a position on the Marlboro VT Highway Department as a Road Crew Member. (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously)

Town Administrator Report

Nick presented the Board with an accounting of ARPA expenditures so far, which including the already approved (but not yet disbursed funds to assist in bringing Fiber internet to the town) currently leaves approximately \$140,000 in unallocated or expended ARPA funds.

Nick attended the DVFiber annual meeting and reported back that the process is continuing and that DVFiber reported that the next major step is working with Green Mountain Power in preparing the electrical poles for the addition of the Fiber cables. A timeline for Marlboro to be wired is still pending. Nick will reach out to DVFiber to get further information on Marlboro specific status.

Regarding the paving of Higley Hill Road and the 1987 article, Nick had further communication with VLCT legal department and advised the Board of their possible course(s) of action. Further notation on this is below in the "old business" section.

Nick advised the Board of the HPC meeting on 11/14/22 and noted that he will be in attendance and report back to the Board.

Regarding lighted Speed signs for several locations in Town, Nick has requested quotes and presented the board with a catalog with several options. Once quotes arrive, they will be presented to the Board for action.

Old Business

Discuss First Aid Building Financing – Tabled

Paving Higley Hill Road

The Board continued its discussions on this issue and reiterated their thoughts that safety issues being paramount, consideration of paving this 1.5 mile stretch of roadway is called for. Based on information from the VLCT legal department and considering the Town's wants and desires, the Board will be discussing how to proceed on this issue and will discuss with Town Clerk, Forrest Holzapfel, the initial steps in developing the 2023 Town Meeting Ballot concerning this item as well as others at the 11/22/23 meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 8:02pm – (Betts/Agate – Passed unanimously).