

**Minutes (Amended on 12/14/22)**  
**Town Of Marlboro Select Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, December 8, 2022, 6:00pm**

Attendees: Aaron Betts, Chair; Jim Agate, Vice-Chair; Molly Welch, Member; Nick Morgan, Assistant/Town Admin; Andrew Richardson, Road Foreman; Tim Segar, Planning Commission

**Call to order – 6:02p**

**Regular Select Board Meeting Agenda**

Identify Any Changes to Agenda: Executive Session moved to earlier time (~6:52p)

**Scheduled Business**

Unscheduled Open Public Comment-none

Approval of Minutes from November 22, 2022- Motion to Approve Minutes (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously)

Signature of Pay Orders - Done

**New Business**

**Planning Commission Discussion on Planning Grants and General Topics**

Tim Segar, Planning Commission Chair, came to discuss a letter sent to the SB regarding moving forward with the PC seeking and implementing a Planning Grant to determine the best course of action regarding the Village Center plan. Jim asked if there was anything that the PC was specifically looking at and Tim mentioned the town park, possible septic improvements, energy conservation and improvement, and investigating the feasibility of lower income housing. Basically, the PC was looking to see how the town could best take advantage of the monies available from the State and Federal governments.

The SB asked generally if there were some specifics that the SB could weigh in on and Tim referenced the letter the PC had sent earlier in the year outlining five priorities. Nick noted that he would reforward the list to the SB and that both the PC and the SB would consider the list and meet again in January to consider steps to move forward. Nick suggested the formation of an “ad hoc” committee comprised of a member from the SB, the PC, possibly the Conservation Commission, Nick and potentially a resident to brainstorm on this priority list and narrow the focus to one or two projects and really dig in on them.

Nick noted that he would put a follow-up meeting on the late January SB meeting to firm up next steps.

**Review Town Meeting Deadlines and review past warning/ballot**

Nick provided the SB with the Town Meeting/Ballot Warning schedule for the Board to review prior to the 12/22/22 SB meeting, where the Board would set up the process to finalize the Warning and work with Forrest on the Town Meeting Ballot.

**Discussion on moving forward with the negotiation of the update to the National Grid Tower Contract**

Having emailed with Jesse on suggestions for the negotiations, the SB agreed to investigate hiring a Real Estate professional to appraise the value of the area of Hogback where the Tower is to provide a basis for negotiation. The SB asked Nick to seek out possible choices, and to reach out to the Town’s Lawyer to get his feedback. Nick noted that he had reached out via email and would follow-up via phone next week. The Board also asked Nick to invite Jesse to the second January 2023 SB meeting to get his insights into the negotiation process as he handled the last negotiations. Nick agreed to do so and advised if scheduling needed to be different.

Nick said that he would reach out to Forrest and to Mike Purcell for suggestions on possible Real Estate professionals.

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**Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues @ 6:38p (Betts/Agate – Passed unanimously).**

**Returned from Executive Session to regular order @ 7:21p**

Coming out of Executive Session, the Select Board acted on the following Motions:

- Motion to implement the 8.7% Federal COLA increase for all Town Employees (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously)
- Move to maintain the Road Foreman “After Hours Paperwork Stipend” at the existing \$350/month (Betts/Welch – Passed by 2 to 1 vote)
- Tabled consideration of pro-rated paid holidays & sick days for part-time Town office personnel to allow for further discussion.
- Move to approve \$250 Christmas Bonus for all Town employees (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously).
- Move to approve Covid-19 specific paid sick time on a case-by-case basis (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously)

### Town Administrator Report

- The BDCC/SeVEDS Energy Efficiency initiative will most likely not have a retroactive component, and the program parameters and funding opportunities for new projects should be released by mid to late January 2023.
- Nick reported on the Windham County Sheriff’s Animal Control co-operative and provided detailed notes on costs and scope of what the Town could expect should it join the co-operative. Nick noted that there will be another meeting with the Sheriff and the cooperative in January and requested that a SB member plan to attend to get a feel for the program. It was also discussed that this might be an issue that would be best put to the Town as an article on the 2023 Town Meeting Ballot.
- Nick advised that the Vermont Forest Service had requested permission of the HPC (and had received a positive indication) to access, via 4-wheeler, Hogback to service the Fire Tower. The SB expressed its approval as well.

### **Old Business**

#### General discussion on the Town’s Energy Efficiency

The SB noted that increasing the Town’s energy efficiency was a strong goal and to that end thought that it would be a good idea to have a comprehensive review of the Town’s energy usage, its existing infrastructure and possible goals and improvements. To help facilitate this, the Board asked Nick to look into possible resources to perform an audit (specifically the Town Office, Town House and Highway Garage) and provide suggestions for improvements and areas of savings (better/more Solar panels?). Nick was asked to reach out to Efficiency Vermont as a first step in determining how to proceed along these lines.

#### Light Roadside Speed Signs

Nick reported that he had not yet received the quotes he had requested of several companies and noted that he would follow-up via phone over the next two weeks to get the costs associated with moving in this direction. Nick noted that he had requested quotes on several different models.

**Motion to Adjourn @ 7:35p – (Betts/Agate – Passed unanimously)**

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**Minutes from Special Meeting on 12/14/22 @ 6p:**

**Call to Order: 6:03**

Attendees: Arron Betts, Chair & Molly Welch, Board Member were present to form a quorum. Jim Agate was not present.

Purpose of Special Meeting was to approve pay for part time/as needed Snow Removal personnel for Highway Department.

Motion to approve Andrew's request to pay part time/as needed snow removal at a rate of \$30/hr.  
(Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously)

Motion to Adjourn @ 6:12pm (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously)