

**Minutes**  
**Town Of Marlboro Select Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 23, 2023, 6:00pm**

Attendees: Aaron Betts, Chair; James Agate, Vice-Chair; Molly Welch, Member; Nick Morgan, Select Board Assist. /Town Admin; Andrew Richardson, Road Foreman; Jean Boardman, Kate Kirkwood, Residents

**Call to Order: 6:02pm**

**Regular Select Board Meeting Agenda**

Identify Any Changes to Agenda: none

**Scheduled Business**

Unscheduled Open Public Comment - none

Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2023 – Betts/Agate – Passed unanimously

Signature of Pay Orders – To be completed by 2/28/23

**New Business**

**Informational Meeting Prep**

The Select Board organized the set up for the meeting at the Community Center and reviewed Andrew's email on Highway Department status and plans in the event that Andrew was unable to join in meeting via Zoom. As well reaffirmed that Linda (Treasurer) and Andrea (Asst Treasurer) would be in attendance to answer budgetary questions.

The Board also reviewed Aaron's suggested opening statement on goals and procedures for the meeting and agreed that the plans as laid out were good and that Aaron should make a statement at the beginning of the meeting.

**Windham County Sheriff's Office Outstanding Issues**

Last year at Town Meeting, the voters approved sending a letter to the WCSO in regards to Fair & Impartial Policing Policy. A main component of this process is/was a meeting between the Towns and the WCSO to discuss this policy. Along these lines, the WCSO has set up parameters for such a meeting, complete with professional facilitators to enhance the process. In order to help defray costs, the WCSO has asked the three towns involved (including Marlboro) to contribute \$500 towards the expense of holding the meeting.

Initially, the discussion was tabled as it was possible that Francie would be able to attend the meeting. Subsequently, Francie was unable to attend and the question was put forward. As the question had been extensively discussed at previous meetings, the following motion was put forward:

Motion: Approve a contribution of \$500 to help Windham County Sheriff's Office to proceed with their proposed meeting on Fair and Impartial Policing in the County with the contribution helping to fund professional facilitators for the meeting. (Betts/Agate – Passed by a 2 Aye & 1 Nay votes)

The Town, along with other towns in Windham County have received a letter from the Sheriff regarding regional policing in the County. Nick took the action item to reach out to the Sheriff to get clarification on what he was looking for and report back to the board.

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### Andrew Richardson: Mold Remediation at Garage

Andrew reported that after an inspection, it has been determined that the Highway Garage has a Mold problem that is in need of remediation. The initial inspection yielded a cost of roughly \$22,000 for the remediation and actions to prevent recurrence of the problem. Andrew noted that he is in the process of seeking more bids (as dictated by the Town's "purchasing policies").

Aaron noted that this is an issue that needs to be dealt with as there are definite health and liability concerns, and felt (as did the rest of the Board) that this is an issue that needs to be dealt with sooner rather than later.

As this is a new problem that was not included in this year's highway budget, discussion with the Treasurer will need to be had to discuss ways to cover this expense in the current budget year and not push off this badly needed remediation until next year.

Nick noted that he will keep this on future agenda's and also will look for public health grants to see if there is a way to fund the remediation with grant funds.

### Town Administrator Report

Town Attorney Bob Fisher: Nick reported that he is in touch with Bob to review the National Grid Tower contract in preparation for upcoming negotiations on a new amendment to the existing contract. The Town has been advised that there is a new round of the Opiate Settlement and that in Mid-April the Town needs to decide whether to participate or whether to direct that any funds due the Town be directed to the State run "abatement fund". The Board agreed that due to the "legalese" included in the notice, that Nick should bring Bob on board to help advise the Board on how to handle this.

### Energy Commission

Nick advised the Board, that while not finalized, two residents have come forward to reconfigure the Energy Commission. A third member is being sought and it is hopeful that the Energy Commission should be up and running in the near future

### Liquor License

Hogback Mountain Gift Shop has submitted their paperwork for renewal of their second class liquor license. As the process has been moved online (and handled by the Town Clerk), the Select Board no longer needs to sign the renewal request, but only note and make a motion to approve the request at a Select Board meeting. To that end, the Board noted the request and brought forth the following motion. Prior to the motion Jim raised a question of with this new process, was there room for the Board to seek information on if the applicant had any problems in the past and whether there was a need to take action prior to approval. As the Hogback Gift Shop has long held this license without any issues, the following motion was presented: Motion to approve the application by the Hogback Mountain Gift Shop for renewal of its Second Class Liquor License. (Betts/Agate – Passed unanimously)

### State Energy Resilience Program

Nick advised the Board State has established a substantial program to provide funding for increasing the Energy Resilience of Vermont's towns and municipalities. The initial phase of the program features free energy audits and \$4,000 "starter" grants for towns to use to assist in getting started with evaluating their needs. The Board has appointed Nick to be the point person for contact, and he reported that he is in contact with the point person and will have more information on taking advantage of these initial benefits over the next few weeks.

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Nick also noted that he and the Select Board will coordinate with the Planning Commission to both keep them informed and to advance their priorities regarding the energy needs for the Town both currently and into the future.

### Police and Constable Review Board

The VLCT is working with the State legislature and has requested information from towns and municipalities on what sort of review boards are, or maybe, in place to review policing. Nick asked the Board if he can respond to the VLCT as follows: Marlboro does not have a police force so there is no need for a review board. As for the Town Constable, the Board has the responsibility of monitoring the activities of the Town Constable, and takes the responsibility to respond to any resident who has

comments regarding the Constable. The Board agreed with this assessment and tasked Nick to respond back to the VLCT in this manner.

### **Old Business**

#### South Pond Greeter Program

Regarding the ability of the Town contributing financially to the creation of a Pilot Greeter Program for South Pond, the Board noted that this funding was not included in the 2023 budget that will be voted on by the town residents at this year's Town Meeting and thus can not approve the requested \$1,000 contribution this year. It was the sense of the Board, that in the future, should the Greeter Program continue, it can make a request for funding from the Town that can be put to the voters as an article (similar to how many groups do such as the Marlboro Alliance) at future Town Meetings.

Motion: The Town will not make a \$1,000 contribution this year (2023) to the South Pond Greeter Program, but urges the Program to petition (40 signatures) for a contribution to be voted on by the Town next year and into the future. (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously)

**Motion to Adjourn @ 7:06p – (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously)**