

Minutes

Town Of Marlboro Select Board Meeting

Thursday, June 8, 2023, 6:00pm

Call to order @ 6:01pm

Attendees: James Agate – Chair; Molly Welch – Vice Chair; Jeff Skramstad – Member; Nick Morgan – SB Assistant/Town Administrator; Andrew Richardson, Road Supervisor; Kate Kirkwood – Chair-Energy Committee; Nancy Anderson, Adrian Segar, Andrew Frost, Steven John, Ty Gibbons, & Will Shakespeare (MVFD) – Residents in person, Paul Butler, Jean Boardman, & Louis Tognan – Residents Via ZOOM.

Regular Select Board Meeting Agenda

Identify Any Changes to Agenda: None

Scheduled Business

Unscheduled Open Public Comment: Kate Kirkwood, Chair of the Energy Commission, came to the Board to review the EC's plans to hold an "Energy Fair" at the MCC on 10/28/23 from 10a-2p and to hold a "meet & greet", also at the MCC, on 7/1/2023 from 10a-12n. She noted that the times while pretty firm, may be subject to change and more information will be posted on the Town's Website and on Front Porch Forum.

Approval of Minutes from May 25, 2023 (Agate/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

Signature of Pay Orders - Done

New Business

Discussions with Town Residents (Adrian Segar et al.) of their suggestions

The group of residents provided the Select Board with five suggestions to improve communications between the Select Board and the Town and some general ideas around the Town Meeting.

1. Put out information on Select Board meetings on as many "Channels" as possible.
 - a. The Board was open to adding more communication outside of the State dictated notice on the Town's Website and the bulletin board outside the town office. The Board committed to posting information and the bi-weekly agenda on Front Porch Forum and to posting meetings on the Town Calendar on the Website. Nick also noted that he would also post the regularly scheduled meetings of all the Town's commissions and committees on this calendar as well as updating the calendar with any specially scheduled meeting.
2. Continue to hold the Select Board meetings as hybrid meetings (both in person and on ZOOM).
 - a. The Board noted that it had already been voted to continue the "Hybrid" meeting format.
3. Follow through on the plan to hold "pre-meetings" in September, November, and December to allow for residents' input into the creation of the 2024 Town Meeting Warning & subsequent Ballot (including the budget).
 - a. The Board reiterated that these meetings have been scheduled at the MCC (& via ZOOM) and was looking forward to working with Town residents on the construction of the 2024 Warning.
 - b. The Board laid out that the plan at this time was to take on information and desires of the town at the first meeting in September which would allow time for potential articles to go through the petition process if necessary, follow up and refine ideas at the November meeting, and plan to spend a substantial amount of the December meeting on the budget.
4. Suggestion to create a flow chart of Select Board activities, events, and benchmarks.
 - a. The Board noted that it would take this into consideration.
5. The potential of moving "Town Meeting Day" to a later date possibly April or May to allow for "more time" to go through the Warning process.
 - a. The Board noted that while this had been allowed during the Covid emergency, this would not potentially be an option moving forward.
 - b. Further, such a move would really not improve the situation as deadlines would still remain and would in effect just be a case of "kicking the can down the road".
 - c. Lastly, such a change would play havoc with the Town Budget, especially the Road budget.

Highway Department

- Higley Hill Road – Andrew came before the Board to discuss a timeline for the repair and maintenance of the dirt portion of Higley Hill Road. Andrew asked for a potential completion date (i.e., 2025, 2026, etc.). He needs this so he can start applying for possible grants, schedule the various stages of what needs to happen. Once these phases were completed, a full schedule would be able to be generated. The Board asked that Andrew proceed with the grant process so that an idea of what monies would be available, and an idea of timelines and requirements would be available for the planning process. A resident asked if this meant that blacktopping was occurring and both the Board and Andrew noted that this was not the case and no matter the ultimate blacktopping decision, the road still had to be brought up to the same standard, regardless of if it was left as "dirt/gravel" or blacktopped.

Marlboro Select Board Minutes – Thursday, June 8, 2023 – Page Two

Highway Department (continued)

- As the Sand Bids involved competing bids, discussions would be held in executive session at the end of the meeting, followed by a decision after “coming out” of executive session.

Marlboro Volunteer Fire Department

- Will Shakespeare came to the Board in his capacity as President of the MVFD to advise the Board that current Fire Chief, Andrew Richardson, would be resigning his position at the end of June 2023. Will also took the opportunity to commend Andrew’s contribution to FD and that he would be missed. Will further noted that the FD had started the search for a new Chief and that a solid potential candidate had been found but he did not want to announce anything until the process had progressed further. Will advised that he would keep the Board apprised of the situation.
- In addition to locating a new Chief, Will also noted that like many small, rural volunteer FDs, Marlboro has experienced some difficulty in maintaining and recruiting the volunteer force. While all of the local FD’s coordinate and support each other with mutual aid, Will wants the MVFD to be the town’s first response and is looking for any input on how to recruit and keep the department’s volunteers. One of the resources he and the FD are using is a National Volunteer Fire Department organization that works with small rural FDs with recruitment, etc. Will told the Board that he would keep them apprised of the situation.

Revisit Recycling Issue from the 5/13/23 meeting

- Nick reported on the current situation with Casella absorbing Triple T and how the Town’s recycling is being handled. All of Marlboro’s recycling is picked up by Triple T and then transferred to Casella’s Rutland facility. In this process the material is combined at Triple T’s transfer station and once it arrives at the Rutland facility, Casella uses its “Zero-Sort Processing” to separate the materials into their components (Cardboard/Paper, Glass, Cans, Plastic, etc.) and then do the recycling processing. As a result, it was brought up whether the Town needed to separate its recyclables as is currently done with the two bins at the recycling center. Jeff suggested that what might be a good solution would be to maintain the two bins, but keep one shut while all recyclables would be “comingled” in one of the containers. When full, it would be closed, and the other bin opened. The full bin would be hauled off and replaced with a fresh one ready to be filled once the other container filled up. The hope would be that this would prevent overfilling of a container causing the issues that have been seen with material falling out of a full container and also ensuring that there would be a container to receive recyclables. As part of the investigation of this plan, the Board asked Andrew to keep track to see if it made sense to schedule a regular once a week pickup, instead of arranging the pickup “as needed”.
- While there was a general sense that this might be a good idea, the Board was not ready to implement this plan and would continue to have two containers available for recyclables, one for cardboard/paper and one for glass, cans, plastic, etc.
- Ty Gibbons contributed the following:
 - Regarding the above, in the past, the thought was to stay with keeping the recyclable materials separate, in case the hauler changed their process and instead of allowing comingling, they changed to requiring separation.
 - Ty strongly stated his belief that keeping the recycling center local was very important as it helps to spur recycling in general.
 - Also, expressed his belief that the recycling center should very much be for residents only and that all methods, including cameras & fencing, should be investigated to prevent non-residents’ use of the facility.
 - Ty noted that one of the main issues continues to be how to keep the center clear of litter and prevent litter from falling down the hill behind the bins. To help with this, Ty volunteered to try to organize volunteers from the town and set up a cleanup schedule. Additionally, it was discussed that “mess” fencing behind the bins (during spring/summer) could help with materials being blown down the hill. The Board noted that it would move forward with the Road Crew to investigate this option.

Emergency Management

- Nick advised the Board that Jay Sparks has asked for a handle on Emergency Spending so far this year and to request that the Board create a budget line item in next year’s budget (and subsequent yearly budgets) for emergency management expenses. Nick is working with the Treasurer on this and will make sure the 2024 budget contains this.
- Jay has advised that there may be some problems with a designated Emergency Shelter at Potash Hill, but he is continuing to work on the issue and would keep the Board apprised.
- Finally, through Nick, Jay reiterated his request that the Board go through the first level of online FEMA training, which the Board acknowledged they would.

Marlboro Select Board Minutes – Thursday, June 8, 2023 – Page Three

G3 Bike Race on 6/4/23

- The G3 Bike Race has requested approval to have the race go through the Town on 6/24/23. This Race has gone through the Town in previous years and has been a good “citizen” cleaning up after themselves.
 - Move to provide approval for the G3 Bike Race to go through the Town on 6/24/23. (Skramstad/Welch – Passed unanimously)

Review of Windham County Sheriff Office 2024 Contract

- The Board reviewed the new 2024 contract from the WCSO and found it to be acceptable.
 - Motion to approve and sign the 2024 WCSO contract. (Skramstad/Welch – Passed unanimously)

Town Administrator Report

- Nick asked the Board to review the announcement for publication on Front Porch Forum of the Fall 2023 Town Warning meetings. All Board members noted that they felt the announcement was good and asked Nick to go ahead with posting it.

Old Business

National Grid Tower Contract Update

- Nick reported that National Grid has responded to the Town’s proposal asking for a map of the access road to the tower that needs maintenance. After conferring with Bob and Mike Purcell, Nick provided Bob with a map for him to send to National Grid and to request that there be a “sight visit” with Mike and National Grid to review the area in person. Other than the map request, further response to the Town’s proposal is still being awaited.

Move to enter executive session to discuss Sand Bids @ 7:30p (Skramstad/Agate – Passed unanimously)

Exit executive session @ 7:35p.

Sand Bids

After reviewing the bids Andrew presented, the Board and Andrew agreed that the low bid by Renauds of \$22/yd delivered should be accepted. It was noted that Andrew sent out three bids to Zuluzny, Renauds, and Northeast Paving. Both Zuluzny and Renauds provided bids, while Northeast Paving was a “no bid”.

- Motion to accept the Renauds’ bid for sand/gravel @ \$22/yd delivered, subject to the two actual bids & the “no bid” meet town purchasing ordinance. (Skramstad/Welch – Passed unanimously)
 - Note: the purchasing ordinance was reviewed, and it states two bids are needed, so there was no issue with the motion to accept the bid.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:38p (Skramstad/Welch – Passed unanimously)