

Draft Minutes

Town Of Marlboro Select Board Meeting

Thursday, August 10, 2023 @ 6:00pm

Call to order @ 6:01pm

Attendees: Jim Agate – Chair; Molly Welch – Vice Chair; Jeff Skramstad – Member; Nick Morgan – SB Assistant/Town Administrator; Andrew Richardson, Road Supervisor; Kate Kirkwood – Energy Committee; Colin Bratton – WRC; Theo Anagnostraras – Resident.

Regular Select Board Meeting Agenda

Identify Any Changes to Agenda: None

Scheduled Business

Unscheduled Open Public Comment: Theo Anagnostraras arrived a little after the appointed time for comment, but the Board allowed him to speak after the Colin Bratton conversation. Theo came before the Board to ask them and Road Supervisor, Andrew Richardson, about a concern he has with his driveway flooding due to the road level causing the water run-off to leave the road and flow onto his driveway and move down to the parking area at his home. In the past, he said that the Road was “cut” to be below the level of his driveway which help alleviate this issue. Andrew noted during the discussion that this was not a good solution as it increased the possibility of the road itself flooding and that since he started roughly a year ago, he was not aware that this had been done in the past. Andrew noted that he and Theo had had many conversations about this and advised that in the short term he could (and has) done a small amount of “cutting” (which Theo noted was not quite sufficient). Andrew agreed to find a compromise solution which would keep the road “safe” and ameliorate Theo’s driveway issues. Noting that he would be in touch with Theo to discuss possible solutions (the Board asked Andrew to keep them apprised and he agreed that he would do so through Nick).

Approval of Minutes from July 27, 2023 – So Moved: Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously.

Signature of Pay Orders: Done

New Business

Colin Bratton – WRC – Lighted Speed Sign efficiency & Potential Grants

Colin came to the meeting to advise the Select Board on the question regarding Speed Feedback signs the Board is considering for either side of the town center on South Road. The Board asked Colin to advise on the impact that these signs have on calming speed, and he advised the data collected has shown a significant amount of speed reduction. Colin noted that installing Speed Feedback signs on either side of the town center would be a good first step and as the Village Center plan continues to be worked on, other options, such as increased signage, can be implemented as well. Moving from this information, the sense of the Board was to finalize the cost analysis of the Feedback signs and move to purchase and install the signs. Nick took the action item to assemble pricing options and present them to the Board for final approval.

In the interim, Nick noted that the Sheriff’s office has offered their Mobile Speed Feedback sign and he would reach out to the WCSO to see about taking advantage of this during the high traffic time of “Fall Foliage”. The Board thought this was a good idea and asked Nick to proceed.

The discussion then moved to finding any possible funding options for road improvement, focusing to a degree on the rebuilding of the gravel portion of Higley Hill road, which needs refurbishment. Interestingly, Colin noted that the AARP could have some funding opportunities and noted that he would investigate this as well as other funding options that may be available both for actual work projects as well as “scoping” or planning studies to detail where, how, and when projects could provide a benefit.

Nick and Colin agreed to stay in touch on the grant investigations and keep the Board apprised of any opportunities.

Highway Dept:

Highway Equipment Fund

After discussions with the town Treasurers, Andrew noted that they had come up with a proposal to add as an article for the 2024 ballot to create a Highway Equipment Fund which would allocate \$80,000 per year to a fund for new large equipment purchases and to pay off past loans used to purchase highly need equipment such as a grader (the town’s current grader is on its last legs with repairs and refurbishment extremely expensive and the consequences of a breakdown would be prohibitively expensive in terms of an emergency rental). Andrew noted that by creating and funding this fund would cover loan payments for equipment and also build up a reserve for future purchases. The Board asked Andrew to draw up an article for the ballot (with assistance from the Treasurers and Nick) for the Board to review and approve for inclusion on the ballot.

Highway Dept: (continued):

Highway Department Purchase of Truck and Grader

Andrew noted that one of his trucks (2014 International) is in terrible shape and has recently cost \$8,000 to diagnose the issue unsuccessfully, and that doing a complete rebuild of the engine & other components would be prohibitively expensive and would still leave the Truck woefully underpowered and unfit for its tasks. He has found a 2019 Western Star complete with all components needed to fulfill its tasks (including snow removal & plowing) for \$96,000. He requested that the Board approve up to \$95,000 in ARPA funds for the purchase of this truck, less approximately \$20,000 value in trade-in (or direct sales through auction). Andrew and the Board agreed that the use of ARPA funds for this necessary purchase was a good use of the funds as it prevents the accrual of more debt for the Town. To ensure sufficient funds to purchase the truck pending funds from Trade-in or direct sale, the Board made the following motion: Move to authorize up to \$95,000 from the Town's ARPA funds for the purchase of the Western Star 2019 Truck with all components, pending trade-in value or direct sale funds which would reduce the amount of ARPA funds actually expended. [Welch/Skramstad – Passed – 2 (Welch & Skramstad) to 1 (Agate)]

The Board and Andrew briefly discussed the necessary purchase of a Grader to replace the town's current grader that is on "its last legs" and a breakdown would create very expensive situation in terms of repair costs (if even possible) and emergency rental/lease costs. The Treasurers are currently working on financing options, which should be ready for the next meeting to allow discussion and an ultimate decision.

Floor Jacks

The existing Jack owned by Lisa Hecht broke during use and the Board noted that a replacement Jack should be purchased for Lisa and returned to her and that a second Jack be purchased for use by the Highway Department.

Motion: Purchase two (2) floor jacks, one to be returned to Lisa Hecht as a replacement for her jack that the Department had been using and a second jack to become the jack used by the Highway Department. (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

ANR & Wetland Management

Regarding Dori Marin's property and the issue, she had at the last Board meeting, Andrew reported that he was going to reach out to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to see if there can be an inspection of the whole situation and what they propose as the best solution. He will keep the Select Board apprised of the situation.

Tentative: Road Signs (Dangerous corner, speed limit, yield, regular road warning type signs)

Andrew advised that he has identified what and where signs need to go and has an inventory of signs on hand to begin the process. When it becomes necessary, Andrew noted that he would return to the Board should the need arise to allocate additional funds for signs not currently in inventory.

Town Administrator Report

Projector or TV – Final Decision

After using the projector for several meetings the Board decided that a TV was a better option and as the purchase of a TV for the Office for the purpose of meetings was already approved by the Select Board, advised Nick to proceed with the purchase of a TV for use during meetings at the Town Office (as many commissions and boards use the town office and the OWL for meetings, this TV screen would be able to be used by them as well).

FEMA Update

Nick advised that the Town had processed its RPA for FEMA reimbursement of expenditures during the July 2023 Rain/Flood event and that he had attended the required Applicant Briefing. At this briefing, FEMA and the State advised that shortly the Town should be contacted by FEMA's onsite assistance group and would help with the filing of all necessary documents.

Approval of Mixer article

Nick reviewed the September 2023 Mixer article which the Board said was acceptable to them and the proceed with sending it in to be published.

Add Section to Emergency Management page with Info on Hot Weather, 2-1-1, the Red Cross

Nick presented the idea of creating an information links page referenced on the Emergency Management page of the Town's website which would have links to Federal and State emergency resources (such as cooling centers, etc.), information on the State's 2-1-1 phone system, and any other information of potential interest, such as the Red Cross' resources for individuals (not only health, but home repair, etc.). The Board liked the idea and told Nick to proceed.

Town Administrator Report (continued)

Evaluation Form

Nick provided the Board with a template for an evaluation form for the Highway Supervisor. The Board noted that they would review the form, make suggestions if needed, and proceed with their evaluation process.

Old Business

Alternative to Ad Hoc Committees based on info from VLCT Legal & Open Meeting Law

Nick noted that a previous suggestion to form Ad Hoc committees made up of one member from each of the Town's main commissions and committees would still need to be helped under the State's Open Meeting Law. As this would just add another layer of bureaucracy, the Select Board determined that scheduling the commissions to come to the Select Board once every six-month period under regular order (Open Meeting Law, Agenda, Minutes, etc.) would provide the necessary coordination and cooperation between the Town's commissions/committees and the Select Board and the public who are always welcome to attend Select Board meetings.

Nick took the action item to set up a schedule for bi-yearly inclusion into the regular Select Board meetings, noting of course that these groups can always request time at any Board meeting.

Constable Training

The Board had tasked Nick to research what needed to be done to re-certify town constable, Clarence Boston, to be able to enforce littering/dumping laws, write speeding tickets and other infractions of town ordinances. Nick reported that he was in touch with the Vermont Police Academy which handles this and was getting the information needed and should have this completed by the next meeting.

Recycling Center Signage Approval

Nick presented the Board with two "mock-up" signs for the Recycling Center. The Board had several suggestions which Nick advised he would incorporate into the next drafts which he would also send to Ty Gibbons for his input as well.

The signs can be made and delivered quickly, so they should be ready for the 9/1/23 start date of "ZERO-SORT" recycling.

Executive Session was not deemed necessary so was not held.

Adjourn @ 7:30 – Skramstad/Welch – Passed unanimously.