

## Minutes

### Town of Marlboro, VT Select Board Meeting

Thursday, December 14, 2023

#### Call to Order @ 6:02pm

Attendees: Jim Agate – Chair; Molly Welch – SB Vice-Chair; Jeff Skramstad – SB Member; Nick Morgan – SB Assistant/Town Admin; Kate Kirkwood – Energy Committee (ZOOM); Andrew Richardson – Highway Supervisor; Will Shakespeare – MVFD President; Jean Boardman, Nancy & Bob Anderson – Residents (ZOOM).

#### Regular Select Board Meeting Agenda

Identify Any Changes to Agenda: None

#### Scheduled Business (Note: Times are approximate):

6:00-6:10p Unscheduled Open Public Comment: None

6:11p Approval of Minutes from November 28, 2023 – (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

6:11p Signature of Pay Orders - Done

#### New Business

Scheduling: Nick reviewed the upcoming meetings - Zoning Public Hearing (12/16/23 – 2-3p); Warning Info Meeting (12/16/23 – 3-4:30p); Warning Info Meeting on Budget (1/6/24 – 2-5p).

Treasurer Department: The Board approved the following motions:

**Motion: Approval of the addition of Rebecca Sevigny (Asst. Treasurer) and the removal of Andrea Howe (former Asst. Treasurer) as a signer to the following town of Marlboro bank accounts at TD Bank, Community Bank, Brattleboro Savings & Loan, and M & T Bank. (Skramstad/Welch – Passed Unanimously)**

**Motion to approve a Christmas Bonus of \$325.00 for all Town Employees. (Skramstad/Welch – Passed unanimously)**

Town Clerk Department: In order to facilitate the 2024 elections, the Town Clerk asked for the following statutory motion to be adopted. **Motion: Approve the Town Clerk to once again mail Town 2024 ballots to all registered voters. (Skramstad/Welch – Passed unanimously)**

#### Highway Department:

Discussion on scheduling work on Mold Remediation/Construction work at the Highway Garage: Andrew requested a target start date for work to begin on the Mold Remediation and Associated work at the garage to allow him to work towards effectively meeting this schedule. After considering several dates, it was decided that a good target would be June 1, 2024. Andrew agreed with this and will commence (with the assistance of Nick) to finding the necessary contractors to do the work. Once contractors are found, and bids gathered Andrew will return to the board for approval before work commences.

Decision on Highway Garage Camera system from HSS: At the request of the Board, Nick asked HSS if their original quote (\$2,843.83) for a camera system could be reduced. HSS noted that they could remove the hi-res camera from the quote (a savings of approximately \$1,000). The Board felt that the removal of the hi-res camera would defeat the security element as without this camera, identifying vehicles (and license plates) would be very difficult. The Board discussed the pros and cons of a camera security system, and it was generally acknowledged that a system was needed, especially in light of the amount of newer equipment recently obtained, and that foregoing the hi-res camera was a bad option. Thus, the Board decided to move forward with the 11/1/23 quote from HSS and proceed with the purchase and installation. **Motion: Approve the purchase of a camera security system for the highway garage based on HSS 11/1/23 quote of \$2,843.83 (slightly less as original quote included taxes which the municipality is exempt from). (Skramstad/Agate – Passed unanimously).**

Changing over to a single Recycling Container Bin due to Zero-Sort process makes two containers unnecessary: After a couple of months of Zero-Sort recycling, it has become apparent that there is not long a need for two recycling containers at the Recycling Center as the container is not being filled up prior to being emptied by the Town's hauler. As the Town owns two containers, Andrew has suggested that after the Holiday time, that the town investigate selling the second container adding the funds back into the general fund. Andrew noted that he will contract Casella and see what value the second container has and if they would be interested in purchasing it. One issue was raised regarding would having a single container mean that there would be a time after the container was picked up would there be an amount of time when no container would be at the Recycling Center. Andrew assured the Board that the pickup is handled by an empty container is dropped off when the full container is picked up so there would not be a time when no container would be available. The Board was satisfied and tasked Andrew to gather the information.

Highway Department: (continued)

*New Road Crew Hire in 2024 and CDL training if necessary:* Andrew announced that he will be moving forward to filling the fourth Road Crew member position that had been previously approved by the Select Board but has been empty for almost a year. He and Nick will work on posting help wanted ads in newspapers and various job websites, including the Vermont Job Listing. One issue that could come up is the general difficulty in finding CDL drivers (as there is a recognized shortage). Vermont does offer a training program/class in Rockingham, VT for the type of CDL the Road Crew needs to have at a cost of ~\$5,500. Nick did investigate (with the Town Attorney) the feasibility of some sort of contract that would protect the town, but such a contract has some real legal hurdles and the Attorney noted that it would most likely be better to avoid one. The Board and Andrew agreed that while there was some risk of the new hire getting the training and then moving on, it is a low probability as the class of CDL that the new hire would get would only qualify them to drive dump trucks (like the town uses) but they would not qualify them to move into trucking such as fuel or big 18-wheelers., etc. So, Andrew feels the risk is quite low that someone would get the training and just move on to the exact same job in dump trucks somewhere else. The Board agreed and concurred with Andrew that even more of the risk could be weeded out in the interview process. The Board told Nick and Andrew to proceed and begin the process.

Review of remaining ARPA funds: Potential Uses:

*MVFD Proposal:* Will Shakespeare (MVFD President) came to the Board to present a proposal to increase the area around the MVFD building to provide better access for the equipment and more parking area to get “civilian cars” out of the way of MVFD equipment entering and leaving the facility. As well the additional land would also mean that the Fire Equipment would not be crossing private property when entering and leaving. Will noted that the MVFD is in discussions with the neighboring landowners to acquire a ¼ acre plat of land that would create the space needed for the improvements. Will has also spoken with Andrew on the feasibility of leveling out the land in question and researched the issues with existing septic issues. Will finally noted that this proposal is looking for approximately \$30,000 from the Town and should it be accepted, these funds could come from the Town’s remaining ARPA funds. The Board advised Will that it is looking at other options for these funds and that there would be future opportunity to flesh out the MVFD plans before a final decision is made.

*Other Options Being Considered for ARPA Funds:* At this time there are two other options that the Board is considering: using the ARPA funds to do the Mold Remediation at the Highway Garage; using the funds for the destruction and asbestos mitigation of the “First Aid Building” on Hogback Mountain which has long been a liability hazard for the Town. Regarding the First Aid Building the HMCA is scheduled to discuss this potential project at the 12/28/23 SB meeting and noted that it is interested in hearing what solutions and plans they have for the First Aid Building. As to the Mold situation at the Highway Garage, the Board sees this of primary importance and the sense of the Board is to provide about 2/3 of the remaining ARPA funds towards the Mold Mitigation and the remaining 1/3 to the First Aid Building project. While the Board sees the MVFD proposal and need as valid, it is possible that this project could be handled in the normal budgetary process for FY 2025, thus allowing the Town residents to weigh-in through the electoral process.

**Old Business**

Town Administrator Report:

*Mixer Article:* Nick presented the Select Board Article for the Marlboro Mixer to the Board for their review.

*Review WCSO ACO Consortium & “One-Off” Contract & Use of Deputies if needed:* Nick reminded the Board that the WCSO is looking for the Town’s decision to join the Windham County ACO Consortium. The Board’s sense was that this was not necessary as if needed the “one-off” contract would cover our ACO in difficult situation and that there is always the option to request help from regular deputies should a situation warrant. Nick advised the Sheriff Anderson is willing and able to attend a meeting to discuss this and the “regional policing” initiative. The Board thought this would be a good meeting to take and tasked Nick to work out details after the Holidays.

*Conservation Commission:* The Conservation requested \$300.00 “petty cash” funds for FY 2024 and requested the approval of two new members: Katherine Andrews and Beth Johnson.

**Motion: Approve \$300.00 fund in the Town’s budget for use by the Conservation Commission. (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)**

**Motion: Approve the appointment of Katherine Andrews & Beth Johnson to the Conservation Commission. (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)**

*FEMA Update:* Nick reported that he is in the final stages of the FEMA submission after which all data will be “sent up the ladder” for approval and while the money is still pretty far away, things are moving forward.

**Adjourn @ 7:17pm (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)**