

Minutes

Town of Marlboro, VT Select Board Meeting

Thursday, February 22, 2024

Call to Order @ 6:00pm (Despite absence of James Agate, Molly Welch & Jeff Skramstad constituted a quorum, so the meeting proceeded under normal order.)

Attendees: Molly Welch – SB Vice-Chair; Jeff Skramstad – SB Member; Nick Morgan – SB Assistant/Town Admin; Andrew Richardson – Highway Supervisor; Kate Kirkwood – Energy Committee; Linda Peters (& Norman Peters – Spouse) – Treasurer; Rebecca Sevigny – Asst Treasurer; Mary Sargent – Zoning Admin; Anthony Santorelli & Elias A Sater – Brattleboro Co-Op; Brian Mooney – Potash Hill; Steven John – DV Fiber & Resident.

Regular Select Board Meeting Agenda

Identify Any Changes to Agenda: NONE

Scheduled Business (Note: Times are approximate):

Unscheduled Open Public Comment:

Steven John on moderating Saturday (2/24/24) info meeting: Steven John came before the board to advise that due to personal matters, he would be unable to moderate the Town Warning Info Meeting scheduled for Saturday, 2/24/24. The Board noted that they understood and assured Steven that the Board could handle the moderation of the meeting in his absence. Steven further took the opportunity to express his thoughts on trying to figure out some way (a return to in-person meetings, or some other option) to allow for amendments to the warning. Steven noted that one of the benefits of the in-person town meeting concerns the ability for amendments to the warning, followed by a floor vote on the amended article. Steven urged and noted he was willing to assist in investigating any way to allow for articles to be amended. The Select Board noted that while such amendments are not possible with the Australian Ballot process, they are considering increasing the number of Town Warning info meetings (4 were held in this cycle), to allow more extensive discussion and resident input into the creation of the Warning Articles, with a final meeting in advance of the statutory production of the Warning/Ballot for final review of the Articles by the Board and residents, thus allowing for the Articles to be “fine-tuned” right before they are published.

The Board thanked Steven for his input and noted that they will reach out to him (and all residents) in the coming months to set up a schedule of meetings that will provide more input from residents on the Town Warning.

Approval of Minutes from February 8, 2024 – Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously.

Signature of Pay Orders - Done

New Business

Brattleboro Coop at Potash Liquor License: The Brattleboro Co-Op and Potash Hill applied for liquor license for events held by Potash and catered by the Co-Op. Some of the events will be serving liquor, hence the need for the license. Elias, Anthony, and Brian advised the Board that they will be following all rules and regulations. The Board noted that they appreciated the information and felt that approval of the license was the right course.

Motion: Approve the 2024 liquor license for the Potash Hill/Brattleboro Co-Op partnership.

(Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

Sign ARPA resolution: The Board reviewed the resolution (22-001) to assign the remaining ARPA funds as had been previously discussed. The Board passed the following motion and signed the resolution. **Motion: Approve resolution to obligate remaining ARPA funds (\$41,008) to cover Town of Marlboro FY 2024 Payroll expenses. (Skramstad/Welch – Passed unanimously)**

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Highway Department:

VMERS Change Discussion and Decision: Culminating discussions over the last two meetings, the Board took up a final evaluation and decision on moving from VMERS Group A to Group B, improving the retirement benefits for town employees (at this time, specifically the Road Crew). Asst Treasurer, Rebecca Sevigny noted that the change would add roughly \$3-\$4K to the yearly expense. Rebecca, in her fiduciary role, noted that as with any increase in expenses, the Board should consider whether it is a “need” or a “want” and evaluate the expense in those terms. After this review of the costs involved, the Board decided that improving the retirement benefits would be highly beneficial in retaining existing employees and in attracting new employees when necessary. This increase was seen as providing a very high return in Employee relations and morale and gained a lot for a small investment. **Motion: Approve the transition to Group B of the VMERS program (to take effect in July 2024). Skramstad/Welch – Passed unanimously.**

Reaching out to Mt. Snow regarding Higley Hill Road: Nick reported that he has been in touch with Mt. Snow and they responded very quickly expressing their willingness to work with the Town to determine ways to reduce Mt. Snow generated traffic on Higley Hill Road, helping to prevent poor road conditions on the dirt portion and also assist in the speed calming efforts. Mt. Snow noted that they would put driving directions in their literature (including “online”) instructing traffic to go through Wilmington on Route 100, rather than “cutting” through on Higley Hill Road. As well, they noted that they would reach out to Google and Apple to see about having those services also use the “through Wilmington” directions rather than having the GPS send people along Higley Hill Road. Nick and Andrew will be meeting with the Mt. Snow people to review the status and to brainstorm other possible courses of action.

New Road Crew Job Search: Andrew noted that he had two interviews set up and is confident that one of the candidates will fit the bill and that he will keep the Board apprised.

Attendance at 3/11/24 (5pm @ Fire House) MVFD board meeting: The MVFD has invited the Select Board to have one member attend their 3/11/24 board meeting to discuss several items regarding the Fire Department and to brainstorm on ideas to help the Department moving forward. It was decided that Jeff would attend the meeting along with Nick.

Old Business

Update on AARP Grant – Kate Kirkwood: Kate reported that the AARP Community Challenge grant application was completed (to assist in purchase of radar feedback speed signs) and requested approval from the Board to submit the application. **Motion: Approve the submission for the AARP Community Challenge Grant (and to hold required community events stipulated by grant) to assist in the purchase of two radar feedback signs for South Road (approximately \$10-12,000). Skramstad/Welch – Passed unanimously.**

Establish Binary Blizzard Exercise Team: As proposed by Town EMD Jay Sparks, the Board designated the following personnel to form the “exercise team” to work with Jay and the State on these exercises: Jeff Skramstad, Nick Morgan, Andrew Richardson, and the MVFD Fire Chief.

Town Administrator Report:

FEMA Update: Nick reported that the FEMA application for reimbursement has been completed and was “sent up the ladder” at FEMA. Nick noted that he would stay on top of the situation and apprise the Board of any status change. *Garage Mold RFP update:* Nick advised that he has sent out the first of many requests for quotes to Mold Remediation companies in the area and will report to Andrew and the Board as quotes come in. *Camera at Recycle Update* – Installation begins 2/26/24.

Motion to enter executive session @ 6:50pm (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously) Motion to return from executive session @ 7:05pm (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

Adjourn @ 7:05pm (Welch/Skramstad – Passed Unanimously)