

Minutes

Town Of Marlboro Select Board Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2024, 6:00pm

Attendees: Molly Welch – Chair; Jeff Skramstad – Vice-Chair; Kate Kirkwood – member; Nick Morgan – SB Assist/Town Admin; Forrest Holzapfel – Town Clerk; Linda Peters – Treasurer; Gail MacArthur, Jennifer Mazur – Warming Center; Frank Cervone, Bill Hennigan, Ginny Beenyn, Jean Boardman, Norman Peters, Courtney Bodenstein – Residents

BEGIN ZOOM RECORDING:

Call to Order @ 6:01pm

Regular Select Board Meeting Agenda

Identify Any Changes to Agenda:

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

6:00-6:10p **Unscheduled Open Public Comment:**

Resident Frank Cervone (Auger Hole Road) came before the board to register his dissatisfaction with the conditions of the Town roads due to “Mud Season”, especially Auger Hole Road and Higley Hill Road. He was very upset with the road conditions, especially the potholes and general road conditions that were impacting the condition of his pickup truck and the fact that some local contractors he was looking to hire to do work on his home stated that they would not be able to do anything until the road conditions improved. Frank also noted that because of the road conditions, he had to take an out of the way route through Wilmington to get to Dover and it was very inconvenient. He was upset that he paid a significant amount in property taxes and felt that the services being provided were insufficient. Frank also wondered about potentially blacktopping (or chip & seal) some areas (the Higley Hill Road dirt stretch), the Board noted that blacktopping certain stretches of road has been an ongoing discussion within the Town and that a major issue is the cost, which can be prohibitive.

The Board members noted Frank’s concerns, expressed that they have heard his issues, and that they and the Highway Department are very focused on and vigorously addressing the “Mud Season” situation. They thanked Frank for coming to the Board and urged him to feel free to contact Road Supervisor, Andrew Richardson, with his concerns and that he is always welcome to come to the board with this or any other issues.

Approval of Minutes from February 22, 2024 (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

Approval of Minutes from Special Meeting on March 3, 2024 (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

Signature of Pay Orders - Done

New Business

SB Organization:

Board Members Molly Welch and Jeff Skramstad welcome newly elected member Kate Kirkwood. Skramstad nominated Welch for Chair, Kirkwood seconded, Welch was elected to chair unanimously. Welch nominated Skramstad for Vice-Chair, Kirkwood seconded, Skramstad was elected to Vice-Chair unanimously.

Nick reported that he had not yet received nominations for new positions at the Planning, Conservation, & Energy Commissions. He noted that he expects them by the next meeting (3/28/24) and will put that item on the agenda.

The Board noted that they had previously reviewed the 2024 Rules of Procedure & the Conflict-of-Interest Policy, Nick had provided: **Motion to approve the 2024 Select Board Rules of Procedure and Conflict of Interest Policy as written and on file at the Town Office. (Skramstad/Welch – Passed unanimously).**

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SB Organization (continued):

Designate the Official Newspaper for Publications and Notices: **Motion to designate The Brattleboro Reformer as the Newspaper of record for publications and notices. (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously).**

Designate the Town Website marlborovt.us as the Official Town Website: **Motion to designate < marlborovt.us > as the official Marlboro Town Website. (Welch/Kirkwood – Passed unanimously).**

D2R2 Bike Race for Franklin Land Trust – 8/17/24:

Nick brought forth a letter from the D2R2 Bike race, noting that they have done this race which goes through parts of Marlboro for several years and have been a very good partner, being very conscientious about set up and clean up. The Board expressed no objections and Nick noted that he would be in touch with the organizers as the event approaches to make sure they are aware of their obligations to leave everything as it was after the race.

Highway Department:

While unable to attend the meeting this week, Andrew Richardson asked Nick to advise the Board that Tyler Brown from ANR would be in town in early April to address the Beaver Deceiver on North Pond Road as part of ANR's program to assist towns.

Andrew advised Nick that he had no other topics this week.

VMERS/BCBS/STD-LIFE initial discussions:

Before doing the research to determine the costs, feasibility, and ability to offer VMERS, BCBS Health Plan, and National Insurance's Life Insurance & Short-Term Disability to all town employees (currently VMERS & National Insurance is only available to Highway Department employees). Nick was not seeking any approval to change how the Town handles these benefits, only seeking that they would be interested in hearing the particulars. The Board told Nick to proceed with his research and report back to the Board.

At this time, the meeting was ahead of schedule and was waiting on the representatives from the "Warming Center" committee and the Town's Emergency Management Director, Jay Sparks, and the Board paused the meeting (including the ZOOM recording) 6:35 to 6:51pm.

Discussion on process to activate MCC Warming Center:

As Gail and Jennifer were in attendance, Nick suggested the meeting continue and he would advise Jay of the plan and facilitate any conversations and suggestions from him. Everyone agreed and Gail presented the MCC Warming Center's activation plan. The plan involves "opening" the center 24 hours after a continuing power outage (when accompanying temperatures are low) from 10a-4p. The center will be staffed by Marlboro Cares volunteers, Gail and Jennifer noted that many of these members live close to the MCC so staffing should not be an issue. (Jeff even noted that he could always come over from the INN and open the MCC – he has a key.) Part of the plan is to use GMP's outage map to determine how long to keep the Center open.

The Board was very appreciative of the work done and with the activation plan and thanked Gail and Jennifer for coming and presenting the information.

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Old Business

Town Administrator Report:

Nick noted that he and Molly would be attending ANR's "Beaver" seminar on 3/19/24 in Bennington and that they would report back at the next meeting.

Nick showed the Board a page on VLCT's website that lists both online and in-person training sessions on Open Meeting Law and other Municipal Governance issues. Nick advised that he would remind the Board of upcoming sessions and the Board agreed that these sessions would be beneficial in their administration of the Town's business.

Nick advised that FEMA has provided a new representative to work with the Town in the finalization of the Town's application for FEMA funding of the repairs and that a few issues have already been resolved. It is now just a waiting game.

Regarding the Mold situation at the Garage, Nick reported that he is continuing to research local mold remediation companies and will be sending out requests for quotes in the next couple of weeks.

The camera installation at the Highway Garage is complete and functional, with the camera system able to read license plates if the situation calls for it.

At 7:00pm the Board moved to enter Executive Session: (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously).

Executive Session

At 7:32pm the Board returned from Executive Session and approved to moving into regular session: (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

Motion to Adjourn @ 7:33p: (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)