

**TOWN OF MARLBORO, VERMONT**  
**~ Minutes of the Non-binding Informational Meeting ~**  
**MARLBORO PRE-TOWN MEETING ELECTION : Meeting # 1 of 4**

**September 21, 2024 @ 2 pm in the  
Marlboro Community Center & by video conference**

Legal voters and interested persons are further warned and notified that an Informational Meeting (discussion and information, no voting) to prepare for the 2025 Town Meeting Election will meet in-person & via ZOOM on **Saturday, September 21, 2024**, from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Marlboro Community Center (in-person) or for those who prefer joining remotely via ZOOM, below is the following link and/or phone number:

Link: <https://Us02web.Zoom.us/j/89755939733> Meeting Id: 897 5593 9733 To Join by Phone: 1-646-558-8656

**Present:** Marlboro Select Board members Molly Welch, Jeff Skramstad, & Kate Kirkwood, Town Administrator Nick Morgan, Town Clerk Forrest Holzapfel, Treasurer Rebecca Sevigny, Assistant Treasurer Lynn Scheuermann, Theo Anagnostras, Michelle Holzapfel, Nancy Anderson, Steven John, Marcia Hamilton, Ken Mangan, David Radel, Jean Boardman, Nancy & Lou Tognan  
online: Gussie Bartlett, David Holzapfel, John Marinelli, Keats Dieffenbach

Called to order by Molly Welch at 2:00 pm

Molly and Town Administrator Nick Morgan explained the procedure for the meeting and that this is the first of 4 meetings. Molly further detailed their list of topics broadly.

**Town Finances**

Rebecca Sevigny the Town Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer Lynn Scheuermann detailed how they are changing the public facing display of the town finances as well as how they have restructured QuickBooks and all their internal processes for clarity and transparency. The annual need to borrow for the School is perennial due to the fiscal year and calendar year mismatch between Town and School District. Forrest spoke about the possibility of going to two tax due dates to spread the cost more throughout the year which would help the cash flow be more even. More discussion is needed.

Rebecca detailed how cemetery funds are now aggregated together with sub-accounts for each cemetery.

She showed further how she is trying to create a budget for each of the town's different boards & commissions and asks that they provide a budget for the upcoming year. For instance, the budget is \$7,000 for legal fees for our Town Attorney Bob Fisher, and many town officers find his help a huge asset to the functioning of our municipality.

Rebecca then showed payroll information up to this date and detailed the recent transition in the Treasurer's department and former Treasurer Linda Peters' retirement.

Molly explained the Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System and how the Town had not been offering retirement to employees in the past but only to the Road Crew. This is a long-standing violation of State law by the Town. Molly spoke to the difficulty of small boards with rotating volunteers and the difficulty of continuity.

Forrest spoke to the law which details that the retirement benefit is mandatory for employees who work 24 hrs per week minimum. This wasn't done for 26 years for Linda and 13 years for Forrest. There are no means to avoid the payment to bring the town into compliance with VMERS (approximately \$260,000) and naturally everyone is concerned. Other town employees who will also now be paying into the VMERS are Town Administrator Nick Morgan and Treasurers Rebecca Sevigny and Lynn Scheuermann, who all work over the 24 minimum hours per week.

Rebecca went on to discuss Recycling Center maintenance, the cost of which has increased significantly since Casella purchased the prior recycling trucking company Triple T. She also discussed the price of #2 fuel oil with Guy Nido, Inc. and she pre-bought this year.

- David Radel asked about the cost of recycling, which was explained as being mostly trucking costs. Nick Morgan said unfortunately Casella is about our only choice.

Rebecca then detailed the cost of the security and fire alarm upgrades at the Town Garage, to cover both their equipment and the recycling bins and gave a general overview of actual costs versus the budget. So far in this year, the Highway Department is under budget.

Education Spending was touched on briefly but will be the subject of other upcoming meetings.

A round of applause for Rebecca and Lynn who have done a stellar job bringing the Treasury department through a difficult transitional period.

### **Review Process for Items to be included Warning**

Forrest discussed the process of getting an article on the Warning for the Town Meeting Election.

Jeff Skramstad said the Select Board wants the public to know what petitions come forward and Molly further detailed how the upcoming Town Meeting ballot will group social services into different sections such as: organizations within Marlboro, health organization, and others.

### **Select Board On-going Items**

- Jeff Skramstad discussed the topic of **traffic calming** in the Town Center. Fog lines have been painted on South Road to help define the road edges. Windham County Sheriff presence has been increased and they have been writing tickets. Speed tables will be coming in the spring, and new signage will be introduced to help the issue.
- Molly talked about the **Town Garage** which has a black mold problem on the upper ceiling walls and we need to act. The walls will be sprayed with solutions to kill the mold and then will work toward fixing the problem. Theo Anagnostaras mentioned that an ozone generator might be installed to help sanitize the air.
- Jeff brought up that the **First Aid building on Hogback** has hazardous materials in it and we will need to raise \$40,000 to \$50,000 to remove the structure and dispose of it correctly. The Select Board is looking into how to remedy this situation. This is a long-standing issue.
- Molly detailed how the Town Officers are all trying to modernize and create more efficiency in their work. Brief discussion of the creation of a capital fund for road equipment. Additional Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector efficiencies are being developed and implemented.
- Jeff detailed how Green Mountain Power is working with the town to bury more electric lines underground beneath town roads. It is a mission GMP is undertaking to increase resiliency. The **Town Office automatic back-up generator** is currently broken and the Select Board has recommended battery backup done by Green Mountain Power as a replacement. The battery backup will provide up to 24 hours of electric use in the office.

### Emergency Management

Molly discussed recent Emergency Management meetings and training the Select Board and other town officers have attended in support of our response to a large emergency or natural disaster. She discussed the highlights of the potential response by the Town, its partners, and other State agencies (VT Alert). The Town does not have a suitable shelter for a large disaster, (the Marlboro Community Center is a warming shelter, no sleepovers) so discussion is underway to find a new location, perhaps at Marlboro School.

Molly made a few remarks about the next meeting where Road Foreman Andrew Richardson will be discussing the highways. Town Administrator Nick Morgan detailed the many opportunities the public has to discuss any issues with the Select Board.

### **DV Fiber**

Steven John showed an update on DVFiber's progress on hooking up residents with fiber optic internet, and answered general questions about the timeframe Marlboro is on to be hooked up.

### **Closing Remarks**

The Declaration of Inclusion as proposed to and adopted by the Select Board was read out by Nick Morgan. There will be more discussion of this in future meetings.

Nick recommended that people help the town's Emergency Management team sign up for both VT Alert and C.A.R.E.(e911) as these will assist during emergencies.

Meeting adjourned promptly at 4:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Forrest Holzapfel  
Marlboro Town Clerk