

Minutes

Town of Marlboro Select Board Meeting

Thursday, November 25, 2024 @ 6pm – Town Office & Via Zoom

Attendees: Molly Welch – SB Chair; Jeff Skramstad – SB Vice-Chair; Kate Kirkwood – Member; Nick Morgan – Town Admin/SB Assistant; Forrest Holzapfel – Town Clerk; Rebecca Sevigny – Treasurer.

BEGIN ZOOM RECORDING:

Call to Order @ 6:04pm

Sign Guidelines of Conduct - Done

Regular Select Board Meeting Agenda

Identify Any Changes to Agenda: None

Scheduled Business (*Note: Times are approximate -early arrival-15-20 minutes- is suggested*):

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

6:11p Approval of Minutes from October 24, 2024 (**Welch/Skramstad – Passed Unanimously**)

6:11p Approval of Minutes from October 26, 2024 Info Meeting #2 (**Welch/Skramstad – Passed Unanimously**)

6:11p Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2024 (**Welch/Kirkwood – Passed Unanimously**)

6:11p Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2024 Special meeting (**Welch/Kirkwood – Passed Unanimously**)

6:11p Signature of Pay Orders - Done

New Business

SeVEDS/BDCC Update:

Al Claussen from SeVEDS came to the Board to provide an annual update of SeVEDS/BDCC activities and answer any questions from the Board (or Town Residents who may have been in attendance). Al reviewed the structure of SeVEDS/BDCC, outlining that SeVEDS was the planning branch, while the BDCC implemented the plans and programs, including getting grant information out (and providing assistance) to the area towns. Al reviewed many of the programs the organization was working on, many of which focused heavily on area youth services and working with high schools to provide students with assistance and programs to help them both before and after graduation (career options, preparedness, & opportunities). While Al referenced several ongoing and upcoming programs, the Board asked about anything specific (and beneficial) to Marlboro that had been implemented recently to which Al noted that nothing directly associated with Marlboro has been in process over the last year. Al also discussed that SeVEDS/BDCC holds large meetings (approximately twice a year), usually at Mt. Snow where they outline current programs and future plans. The meetings are very well attended, and the Board expressed interest in being advised when the next meeting will be held. Both Al and the Board also acknowledged that getting information out to residents was paramount and discussed how this could be done. The Board & Nick suggested sending Nick a couple of paragraphs which could be included in the “Select Board” section of the next Marlboro Mixer, as well as potentially posting to the Marlboro Facebook page when programs come up to which residents could apply, subscribe, and benefit from, as well as either setting up a special meeting at the MCC or using existing gatherings to present to residents. Nick urged Al to reach out to the MCC to see what could be worked out. Al noted these ideas and advised that he would do something for the next Mixer. Wrapping up, Al and the Board discussed the funding request to the town, which Al noted had been held steady for several years (using the 2010 census figures) and remain the same this year at ~\$3,200, and that SeVEDS greatly appreciates Marlboro’s support. Kate also inquired if Al could assist her in speaking with SeVEDS about the new HUD Lead Abatement program grant that has recently been approved and she is in the midst of setting up, Al advised that he would do so. Molly also noted that it could be a good idea for SeVEDS/BDCC to come to the 2/22/25 statutory info meeting and give a brief outline of how the funds the town votes to approve are used. Al noted that he would work to make this happen. Nick also asked Al to check with his people if there was anything new that might help with the Hogback First Aid building situation which two years ago, it was determined there was nothing they could do. Al said that he would check to see if anything was available.

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Handling of deceased pets on Marlboro roads:

Town Animal Control Officer Peggy Tiffany requested that the Board come up with a procedure in the **rare** event that a domestic animal (Cat/Dog) was found deceased on a town road. The Board thought that this would be appropriate and though the situation was very rare that a deceased pet was found that was not able to be identified (who the owner was), it would be a good idea to develop a way to handle the situation. Nick reported that he was investigating area pet crematoria, to estimate costs (approximately \$50-\$100) to cremate an animal. Should that be a viable option, the animals' remains could be easily buried in an out-of-the-way area on town land (and marked). The Board tasked Nick to do a little bit more research on possible crematoria in the area and report back to the Board. Once the information is in hand the Board noted it would "get with" Peggy and develop a written procedure (including the possible use of the ARF funds to cover costs).

Treasurer Quarterly Report: As it is not the end of a quarter, this topic was tabled.

Initial Agenda Planning for 1/11/25 Town Warning Info Meeting:

The Board and Nick began the process of reviewing the agenda for the 1/11/25 meeting. All agreed that the meeting would focus on the Town and Highway budget (including impact on taxes). Molly noted that she wanted to have some "breakout sessions", where the Board and attendees could gather in small groups to discuss the budget(s) presented and truly interact with the issue. Ideally the groups would break off, have discussions, and then the group would reform as a whole and review any ideas that had come up in the sessions. Nick noted that this agenda was really a jumping off point and the Board was happy with this and would review and come back on 12/5/24 meeting to work (and finalize??) the agenda.

Request from EMD Jay Sparks to Appoint Keats Dieffenbach as the Marlboro EM Coordinator:

Before discussing the appointment, Nick advised that the AAR (the observers reports on the town's emergency management exercise in September, 2024) had been received by the town's Vermont Emergency Management rep and that he get copies to the Board and invite the VEM rep and Jay Sparks to an upcoming regular Select Board Meeting to review the reports and start the planning for the upcoming Binary Blizzard county wide exercise next Fall, 2025.

Nick reported that Jay Sparks, the town's EMD, would like to ask the Board to appoint Keats Dieffenbach as the Marlboro Emergency Management Coordinator. This position would assist Jay in any emergency response, exercises, coordination, etc. for the town. Jay noted to Nick, that having such a coordinator would be beneficial as it would provide "local feet on the ground" in the event of an emergency, who could take an immediate role, as the emergency management team assembles. The Board was responsive to the idea but did want to know if there was any cost involved and wanted to actually meet with Keats before making a final decision. They also wanted a little bit more clarity regarding what the coordinator's role would be and what duties they would have. Nick advised that he would invite both Jay and Keats to a future meeting so that all these issues could be discussed and a decision made.

Old Business

(Tentative) Update on Zoning Admin Training Plan: Tabled

Town Administrator Report:

Update on GMP Battery Wall – Nick reported that the contract for the work on the Battery Walls had been sent (Molly acknowledged receiving it and would sign it and get it back to Southern Vermont Solar so the process could continue). Nick reported that we are in good shape and once SOVT Solar had the contract they would advise GMP, who would then double check the capacity of the current transformer to make sure it was sufficient. Nick also noted that should work be needed, as part of the Battery Wall program, the town receives a \$2,000 per wall credit for work needed, and as the town is doing two "walls" the \$4,000 credit would more than cover any work needed.

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Old Business (continued)

Town Administrator Report: (continued)

Update MERP – Nick re-advised the Board that Marlboro was not awarded any funding through the MERP program/grant. He also provided them with a list of the towns that did receive the funding and the amounts they received that was included in the Fall 2024 WRC Newsletter. The Board was not happy with the way the MERP program was handled and the amounts and towns that received funds (Nick read them the list – see this link to view the newsletter: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/WRC-Newsletter--Fall-2024.html?soid=1118984881468&aid=F3v86txxXN4>). In response to this information, Nick noted that the Town would be writing a letter to the BGS, and copying our state and federal representatives, as this process was very poor from the start and the allocation of the funds seemed very unfair. Nick noted that once the letter was composed, the Board would be able to review it, prior to it being sent to the BGS (including the head of the agency).

WCSSO Rate Letter for 2026 – Nick presented the new rate letter from the Windham County Sheriff's Office, which shows that in FY 26, the hourly rate for sheriff coverage will be at \$75/hour. This was simply a notification letter and the actual contract with details on coverage, number of hours per month, etc. would be following up in the spring. The Board discussed how things have been going with the WCSSO coverage of the town and the efforts to enforce speed limits on town roads, and Molly asked Nick to get in touch with the WCSSO. As they have increased their amount of ticketing and speed enforcement, Molly wanted Nick to reiterate to them that there should be less attention paid to Route 9 and more attention paid to the town roads, like South Road, Augur Hill, etc. Nick advised that he would do so and report back to the Board.

General Updates – Nick advised that the Rescue, Inc. Board will be meeting in Mid-December to review the town's request to reconsider their rates in the new contract based on lower population numbers. It is hopeful that we will hear from the Board prior to the 12/19/24 Select Board meeting, so the Board can review and sign the next three-year Rescue, Inc. contract. If not, there may have to be a "special" meeting prior to 12/31/24 when the contract is due. The Board also discussed the layout of the Town Warning/Ballot in terms of possibly splitting out SeVEDS/BDCC as a separate article and modifying the current groupings to make things more in line with the reason for the funds request.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 7:10p (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

Executive Session

Motion to return to regular order at 8:26p (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

Motion to Adjourn @ 8:27p (Welch/Kirkwood – Passed unanimously)