

**TOWN OF MARLBORO, VERMONT**  
**MARLBORO TOWN MEETING ELECTION**  
~ **MINUTES of the Non-binding Informational Meeting** ~

**February 22, 2025 @ 2:00 pm at**  
**Marlboro Elementary School & by video conference by BCTV**

Legal voters of the Town of Marlboro, County of Windham, State of Vermont, are hereby warned and notified that **all articles (1 - 24)** will be voted by Australian ballot. A ballot and voting instructions were mailed to all active voters of this municipality on February 12, 2025. Additionally, the polls will be open for in-person voting on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, from **9:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.** in the Marlboro Town House.

Informational meeting:

The legal voters and interested persons are further warned and notified that an informational meeting (discussion and information, no voting) on Articles 1 - 24 will meet in-person & via ZOOM on **Saturday, February 22, 2025**, from **2:00-3:30pm** at Marlboro Elementary School (in-person) OR for those who prefer joining remotely via ZOOM, can use the following link and/or phone number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89235574264> To Join by Phone: 1-646-558-8656

**Present:** Marlboro Select Board members Molly Welch, Jeff Skramstad, & Kate Kirkwood, Town Clerk Forrest Holzapfel, Town Treasurer Rebecca Sevigny, Gary MacArthur (zoom), Beth McDermet (zoom), Patty Webster, Staley McDermet, Lucy Gratwick, Louis Tognan, Nancy Tognan, Michelle Holzapfel, Kalya Yannatos, Jerry Lundsted, Rick Holmes, Cathy Cunliffe (zoom), Susan Kundhardt (zoom), Woody Bernhard (zoom), Anastasia Houze (zoom), Jess Weitz (zoom), Joe Prignano (zoom), Didi Prignano (zoom), Sandy Muschler (zoom), Gussie Bartlett (zoom), Peter Mauss, Phyllis Odessey, Constable Clarence Boston, Evan Wyse, Andy Reichsman, Mo Hart, Aaron Betts (zoom), Paul Butler (zoom), Cherrie Corey (zoom), Andrea Livermore (zoom), Barbara Cole (zoom), Tim Whitney (zoom), Don Fuhrman (zoom), Linda Fuhrman (zoom), Nancy Anderson, Andrea Livermore (zoom), Allan McLane (zoom), Andra Horton (zoom), Carol Ann Johnson, Marcia Hamilton (zoom), Steven John, Peggy Tiffany (zoom), Jean Boardman (zoom), Robyn Boardman (zoom), Ann Bartlett (zoom), Barbara Cole (zoom), Justyn Moulds (zoom), Steve Giard (zoom), Lindy Corman (zoom), Jason MacArthur, David Holzapfel, Jesse Lepkoff, Tamara Stenn.

Fluid participation, approximately 59 participants total. 28 in person, 31 on zoom.

Select Board Chair Molly Welch opened the meeting at 2:04 PM and made a statement regarding how the meeting will be conducted, following the articles to guide our discussion.

The Select Board's Code of Ethics was distributed to all participants in person and furthermore Molly read it aloud. The Code of Ethics will be attached to these minutes upon posting.

Molly Welch requested that Steven John will act as Moderator to which he agreed.

**Article 1:** To act upon the Auditors' Report.

*Discussion:* Forrest Holzapfel read a statement regarding the conduct of the Auditors, which is attached to these minutes.

- Auditor Andy Reichsman apologized that the minutes were not included. He cited extra cost of paper as the reason they were not included. Auditors Gail MacArthur and Rose Watson were not present.
- Forrest Holzapfel asked the body to please update the dedication page inside the back cover for former Treasurer Linda Peters who served the Town for 26 years in that capacity, but that her actual total years of service amounted to 33 years to include her work as Auditor and Assistant Treasurer.
- Rick Holmes asked if we could amend the report and Steven John replied that we can't
- Nancy Tognan asked if the Town Clerk recommended not approving the report?
  - Forrest Holzapfel responded that each voter gets to make their own decision.

**Article 2:** To elect all Town Officers required by law to be elected at the Annual Town Meeting: Select Board, one three-year term; Lister, one three-year term; Auditor, one three-year term; Treasurer, one three-year term; Constable, one two-year term; Delinquent Tax Collector, one three-year term; Cemetery Commissioner, one three-year term; Cemetery Commissioner, one two-year term; Cemetery Commissioner, one one-year term.

*Discussion:*

- Molly Welch announced that she is returning for another 3 year term on the Select Board.
- She further recommended supporting the appointed Treasurer Rebecca Sevigny for election.
- Jeff Skramstad echoed his support of Molly Welch and Rebecca Sevigny.
- Forrest Holzapfel thanked the three Cemetery Commissioners for stepping into a new position to help the municipality move forward.
- Marcia Hamilton spoke briefly about her seeking a 3 year term on the Cemetery Commission.

**Article 3:** To see if the voters of the town choose to place municipal cemeteries under the charge of three elected commissioners and establish a Cemetery Commission.

*Discussion:* None

**Article 4:** To see if the town will vote to set Friday **October 10, 2025** as the due date for property taxes, payable to the Treasurer.

*Discussion:* None

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to collect taxes in two (2) installments beginning in 2026.

*Discussion:* Forrest Holzapfel said that the results of this article will guide the municipality's course.

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to assess a one percent (1%) tax on sales (all sales, meals, alcoholic beverages, and rooms in Marlboro) pursuant to 24 VSA § 138(b).

*Discussion:*

- Mo Hart asked what “rooms” mean, Molly responded that AirBNB, hotel rooms are the most common definitions.
- Patty Webster asked how the Whetstone Inn feels about the 1% proposed tax?
  - Whetstone Inn owner Jean Boardman stated they were ok with the change.
- Molly Welch stated that services are not taxed only the items listed.
- Nancy Anderson asked if the town has to do work to collect the 1% tax?
  - Forrest Holzapfel replied that no, the State administers the tax and the town gets an electronic payment quarterly
- Evan Wyse stated it this tax would be a normal part of being a business owner with a line to report the 1% local tax.
- Paul Butler wants to know if any cost analysis was done?
  - Forrest Holzapfel spoke about the research he did speaking with other towns who have instituted this local tax.
- Jim Herrick asked about sales tax in his construction business.
- Clarence Boston stated that consumption tax such as this is a progressive tax.
- Dan MacArthur stated he charged for materials when building houses and payed tax on that during the regular course of business.

**Article 7:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$4,500.00** (\$1,500.00 each) to pay the yearly stipend for the Town's three-member Select Board.

*Discussion:*

- Round of applause for the Select Board.

**Article 8:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$736,650.00** for the General Fund.

*Discussion:*

- Molly Welch stated how much work Treasurer Rebecca Sevigny and Assistant Treasurer Lynn Schueurmann have put in to create a clear budget.
- The total amount the budget is going up in 2025.
- No further questions came up.

**Article 9:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,291,450.00** for Town Highways, summer and winter maintenance.

*Discussion:*

- Mo Hart asked if there were highlights to the amount of money requested for this article?
  - Jeff Skramstad and Molly Welch spoke to new equipment loans, and the generally increased expenses of all materials.
- Rebecca Sevigny noted that health insurance premiums increased and payroll has increased.

- Gail MacArthur asked about total revenue on page 24 of the town report.
  - Rebecca Sevigny stated that has to do with emergency costs.
- Question from Tim Whitney about the building configuration at the Town Garage and the need for covered space for the School District buses.
  - Molly Welch responded that yes this issue is of where to park the school buses is being worked on

**Article 10:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$35,000.00** to the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. to help defray operating expenses.

*Discussion:*

- Carol Ann Johnson, President of the Board of the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company spoke to the articles and stated the total request is less than the prior year.

**Article 11:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$50,000.00** to the **Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.** for capital improvements for essential vehicles, facility, and equipment repairs and upgrades.

*Discussion:*

- Carol Ann Johnson of the MVFC stated they currently have a roster of 12 firefighters.

**Article 12:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$21,309.75** to **Rescue, Inc.** for services.

*Discussion:* None

**Article 13:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$5,000.00** to Deerfield Valley Rescue, Inc. for services.

*Discussion:* None

**Article 14:** To see if the voters of the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$40,000.00** for the removal of the former First Aid Building in the Hogback Mountain Conservation Area.

*Discussion:* Molly Welch stated this is a one-time expense that has been hovering over the Select Board for many years. The building contains asbestos and vermiculite which needs Hazardous Materials removal which is costly. The building has deteriorated even more in the time that the Town has been looking for solutions.

**Article 15:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$3,234.00** to SE Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) for services.

*Discussion:* Meg Staloff from Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) attended to discuss the work that is behind this article and that this request amounts to \$3 per person. They work with employers, and interact with 22 towns in Windham County. The report of

*their work is widely available. She thanked Marlboro for being one of the first towns to help support their work. SeVEDS is governed by BDCC.*

**Article 16:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$408.00** to support the **Animal Resource Fund (ARF)**.

*Discussion: Marlboro Animal Control Officer Peggy Tiffany spoke to this article and is surprised by "No" votes on this article and explained that she passes her compensation from the Town back to the Town for this fund to provide a service for those who have trouble paying for licensing or vaccinations for their dogs.*

**Article 17:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate up to **\$3,000.00** to support the production of the **Marlboro Mixer newsletter**.

*Discussion: Molly Welch spoke about the challenge of getting the Mixer to everyone in Marlboro, which is always a work in progress. Peggy Tiffany stated it was a great resource.*

**Article 18:** To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend **\$5,000.00** to The Marlboro Community Center in support of its mission to create a welcoming environment which supports, nurtures and enriches the Marlboro Community through its programs.

*Discussion: None*

**Article 19:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$500.00** to support the **Marlboro Town Library** in their efforts toward purchasing books and providing reading related opportunities for the community.

*Discussion: Responding to a question, Jess Weitz said the little libraries around town were implemented before the current Marlboro Town Library came into existence.*

**Article 20:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$5,000.00** to The Marlboro Meeting House to be applied to the operation and maintenance of the building in support of the variety of municipal and community programs held therein.

*Discussion: None*

**Article 21:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,800.00** to **Marlboro Cares** for services.

*Discussion: Peggy Tiffany spoke recently with a resident who did not know about the services provided by Marlboro Cares. Patty Webster explained that Marlboro Cares brings a gift basket to all new residents of town.*

**Article 22:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,750.00** for the following Marlboro regional organizations:

The Moover \$250.00

Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center \$250.00

Gathering Place for Adult Day Services \$500.00

Brattleboro Area Hospice \$250.00

SE Vermont Community Action, Inc. \$970.00

Deerfield Valley Food Pantry \$500.00

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont \$1,050.00

Discussion: *None*

**Article 23:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,700.00** for the following Marlboro regional organizations:

Groundworks Collaborative \$ 1,500.00

Youth Services \$ 1,000.00

Women's Freedom Center \$ 1,200.00

American Red Cross Green Mtn \$ 500.00

Senior Solutions \$ 400.00

Green Up Vermont \$100.00

Grace Cottage Hospital \$1,000.00

Discussion of Article 22 & 23:

- *Jeff Skramstad spoke about the groupings of social services as they appear on the ballot and the rationale behind the Select Board's decision to display the article this way.*
- *Mo Hart asked about the groupings and if the organizations would ever fall off the list?*
  - *Forrest Holzapfel replied that the organizations receive money from the Town unless something changes in the organization, and this year Visiting Nurses of VT & NH requested to be removed since they have restructured and no longer serve our area.*
- *Staley McDermet prefers each article be voted on separately.*

**Article 24:** To see if the voters of the Town will vote to authorize the town to borrow funds in anticipation of tax revenue.

Discussion:

- *Rebecca Sevigny is looking into creating a structure with the bank to make this most advantageous to the town. Jim Herrick asked about borrowing.*
- *Brief discussion of splitting tax into two payments as appears in Article 5*
- *Tax Rate discussion Jim Herrick asked about what the tax rate increase total will be*

- *Forrest Holzapfel stated the 2024 Town tax rate was \$1.0660 and that it will rise from there for 2025. Many factors will come together by the time the tax rate is set in July 2025 so it is too early to know.*
- *Dan MacArthur spoke about the possibility of the the school tax rate going down*

Discussion ends, to a round of applause.

Adjournment at 3:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Forrest Holzapfel, Marlboro Town Clerk