

## Minutes

### Town Of Marlboro Special Select Board Meeting Thursday, January 27, 2025, 6:00pm

**Attendees:** Molly Welch – Chair; Jeff Skramstad – Vice Chair; Kate Kirkwood – Member; Andrew Richardson – Road Supervisor; Nick Morgan – Town Admin/SB Assistant; Forrest Holzapfel – Town Clerk; Evan Wyse – Asst Town Clerk/Delinquent Tax Collector/Lister; Rebecca Sevigny – Treasurer; Lynn Scheuermann – Asst Treasurer; Louis & Nancy Tognan, Celia Segar, Lucy Gatwick, Linda Fuhrman, Gail MacArthur, and Dan MacArthur – Residents.

#### **BEGIN ZOOM RECORDING:**

**Call to Order @ 6:00pm**

**Sign Guidelines of Conduct - Done**

#### **Regular Select Board Meeting Agenda**

Identify Any Changes to Agenda: None

#### **Scheduled Business:**

Unscheduled Open Public Comment: Ceila Segar came to the Board to read the following into the record:

*I have lived here most of my adult life, valuing this community, where I could participate together with my neighbors, who included people different from me, having differing ideas. In person Town Meeting embodied that for me. But, in order to expand inclusion & participation and support informed voting, we switched to hybrid meeting and paper ballots. Please do not make assumptions about those of us on ZOOM. Most of us have done a lot of volunteer work for our town. It is not about being “unwilling to drive 3 miles”, but rather due to a variety of impediments. In the last meeting [sic – 1/11/25], I felt marginalized, unable to hear, due to audio interference from side talk and distance from the mic. I would like to make a suggestion, which, I believe, will support inclusivity with no added cost: Have a moderator who will enforce a strict “no side talk” policy and either have the speaker come up to the mics or repeat what has been brought up. Thank you.*

The Board thanked Ceila for her thoughts and Nick advised that for future bigger info-type, like the 2/22/25 meeting, the tech will be handled by BCTV which will enable the ZOOM feature of the meetings, while providing much better sound and video coverage, than the stationary Meeting Owl the town uses for smaller meeting around the conference table. Many of the other attendees echoed and supported Ceila’s points. The Select Board noted that they have heard the suggestions and are moving to improve. Forrest added that as more statutes and regulations come down from the State Legislature, many towns are facing the same problems as Marlboro is here.

#### **New Business**

##### **Final Review of 2025 Marlboro Town & Highway Budget:**

The Board and Treasurers reviewed the Town Budget it being noted that there had been a couple of adjustments to overall payroll to account for the Delinquent Tax Collector salary, and other than that all of the items that had been discussed at the 1/23/25 meeting had been incorporated and were acceptable to the Board. The final budget number to be put on the Warning & Ballot was determined to be \$736,650.00, less than the actual 2024 “spend” but higher than the 2024 town budget. Moving to the Highway Budget, the Treasurers noted that they had reviewed it carefully and there were no changes from what was reviewed on 1/23/25 meeting. There were a couple of clarifications regarding which “account” a specific expense was recorded under, how town insurance expenses through PACIF were allocated between the two budgets, some discussion on possibly changing the plan for plowing the town office parking lot, confirmed the “training” was for possible CDL training for a new Highway employee, where the cost of the Speed Tables was recorded, and a quick review of the town’s IT expenses. These reviews did not result in any changes to the budget as presented. The final total budget line for the Highway Department was confirmed at \$1,291,450.00.

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**New Business** (continued)

Final Review of 2025 Marlboro Town & Highway Budget: (continued)

Through out the discussion, the Board checked in with ZOOM attendees, and aside from getting the Budget pages “shared” on screen, the ZOOM attendees did not present any questions or concerns that required addressing.

The Board then moved to approval of the Budgets and the Town Warning:

**Motion: Accept & approve the Town 2025 expected expense budget (\$736,650.00) as presented today, 1/27/25. (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)**

**Motion: Accept & approve the Highway Department 2025 expected expense budget (\$1,291,450.00) as presented today, 1/27/25. (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)**

Nick entered these budget numbers into the 2025 Town Warning after which the Board reviewed the 2025 Town Warning article by article before considering it for approval. One of the ZOOM attendees asked if the appropriation articles would add to the budget numbers that were just considered to which the Board advised that all of the appropriation numbers were already included in the Budget. The only effect of the votes on the individual articles would be – should an article be voted down, then that amount in the budget would not be expended and thus for that line item the town would be “under budget”, the budget would remain, but the expense would be less. Another attendee raised a question on the wording, and Forrest advised that the wording was legally prescribed and is that same as it has been in the past. There being no more questions, the Board moved on to approve the 2025 Town Warning.

**Motion: Accept and approve the 2025 Town Warning as presented (with one typo corrected and the final budget numbers filled in) on 1/27/25. (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)**

Nick made the one typo correction and filled in the approved budget numbers. He then provided this final copy to the Select Board who signed the Warning, and it was handed over to the Town Clerk, Forrest Holzapfel to proceed with his duties as Town Clerk to publish the Warning and Budgets as dictated by statute.

At this point, the Board prepared to move into executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

**Motion: Based on the fact that premature knowledge of the topic that we need to discuss now would be deleterious to the public & town. (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)**

**Motion: That we move into executive session to discuss personnel issues according to Vermont Statute 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(a) (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)**

**Motion: The Select Board invites, Forrest Holzapfel, Town Clerk, and Nick Morgan, Town Administer to participate in Executive Session. (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION commenced at 6:37p.**

**Motion: Exit Executive Session and return to regular order @ 7:05p (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)**

**Motion to Adjourn @ 7:06p (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)**