

Draft Minutes

Town Of Marlboro Select Board Meeting

Thursday, April 17, 2025, 6:00pm (rescheduled from 4/10/25)

Attendees: Molly Welch – Chair; Jeff Skramstad – Vice Chair; Kate Kirkwood – Member; Nick Morgan – Town Admin/SB Assistant; Andrew Richardson – Road Supervisor; Rebecca Sevigny – Treasurer; Lynn Scheurermnn – Asst Treasurer; Diana Todd & Mike Purcell – HPC; Nancy Anderson – HMCA; Jean Boardman – Resident.

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

Unscheduled Open Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes from March 27, 2025 (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

Signature of Pay Orders - Done

Document Signatures & Approvals:

Two FUA's for Hogback were presented (with approvals) by the HMCA and the HPC for final approval and signature by the Select Board. After a brief description from Nancy and Diana and discussion the Board acted as follows:

- Hogback Day – **Motion to approve the FUA and the event known as Hogback Day (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously).**
- WARA Event – **Motion to approve the FUA and the event known as the WARA event (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously).**

Final approval of Whetstone Watershed Signs with approval of location signed off by Road Supervisor: Nick advised the Board that they had already held discussions regarding these signs and Andrew had noted that he was okay with their installation, pending approval of final locations. Nick took the action item to advise Isabel Bowman of this decision and to direct Isabel to contact Andrew for his approval of the finalized locations. **Motion: Approve the installation of two signs denoting the area was part of the Whetstone Watershed, once the group had provided Andrew with their desired locations and received final approval from him. (Welch/Kirkwood – Passed unanimously)**

New Business

VMERS Group Elections for Existing Town Employees:

In order to bring all town employees to an even footing, it has been brought to the Board to approve the remaining four town employees who are still designated at VMERS Group A, be able to elect to move to Group B in the VMERS program (the same as all Highway Department members and recently enrolled eligible employees). Nick advised that elections to join the higher group are administered by the VMERS office. The existing group A members would get the opportunity to remain in A or move to Group B (all new hires are automatically enrolled in Group B as a condition of employment). Once VMERS receives these minutes noting the Select Board's approval, VMERS would generate the appropriate forms for employees to sign and get notarized and returned to the VMERS offices. The Select Board was in agreement with this plan and passed the following motion:

Motion: The Select Board approves Marlboro employees currently enrolled in VMERS Group A to elect to move and to participate in the higher VMERS Group B, effective 7/1/25 for employees to whom this applies. Further, tasking the Marlboro Town Administrator to forward this approval to VMERS and coordinate the process between VMERS and the employees who are eligible. (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

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New Business (continued)

Quarterly Budget Review – Treasurers

Town Treasurer, Rebecca Seigny, came before the Board (along with Assistant Treasurer Lynn Scheurermann) to review the Q1-2025 town budget. Rebecca presented the report in a new format that allowed for a quick review of “spend vs. budget” for Q1 delineated by department, account, etc. The discussion went through all accounts (including the highway department) and except for some minor overages the Town is well within the budget targets.

The Select Board praised the new format and advised Rebecca that they really think it is a very accessible document and urged Rebecca to continue along these lines moving forward. Rebecca (and the Select Board concurred) called out Evan Wyse in his role as the Delinquent Tax Collector for doing an amazing job and recovering a large amount of delinquent taxes that only help keep the Town on budget and needing less loan carriage.

Andrew asked if Rebecca could format the “equipment account” in a similar fashion for the next Quarterly report and Rebecca noted that it should not be a problem.

In order to allow Hogback participants to leave in a timely manner, discussion of the First Aid Building quotes was moved up in the agenda.

First Aid Building Quotes – Decision:

Mike Percell came to the Board to present the quotes he has received for the razing (and reclamation) of the First Aid Building on the Hogback property. As the 2025 Marlboro Town Budget included funds for this endeavor, the Board tasked Mike to gather quotes and proceed with this project. Mike reported that he had sent requests for bids to the following companies, Catamount Environmental, CD Davenport Trucking, Western Mass Demolition, Apex Abatement & Demolition, Associated Building Wreckers, Inc, and BHE-Brighter Horizons Environmental Corp. He received two quotes (Catamount & Brighter Horizons) with the remainder not submitting. Catamount came in at \$44,000 and Brighter Horizons at \$44,600. Mike noted that Catamount advised him that their work would probably come in closer to \$40,000 based on the number of loads of material that would need to be used. Mike and the Board agreed that as Catamount has worked with the town on this before, and that they are a little cheaper, Catamount should be awarded the job. **Motion: Accept and sign the Catamount quote for the razing and cleaning up of the First Aid Building on the Town’s Hogback Mountain property. (Skramstad/Kirkwood – Passed unanimously)**

The Board signed the Catamount bid, Nick scanned the signed bid and emailed to Mike for him to proceed with moving forward on the project with Catamount (and advising Brighter Horizons of the Board’s decision).

Highway Department:

Continuing Discussion of Proceeding with Truck purchase & Electric Vehicle mandate – The Board and Road Supervisor, Andrew Richardson, continued their review and discussion of the potential Electric Vehicle mandate in Vermont for Municipal vehicle, and how in order to ensure that the Town has the best Road Equipment as possible, a decision needs to be made on the purchase (and how to accomplish this) of a new 10-wheel dump/plow truck before the mandate goes into effect (if it does) and makes it difficult if not impossible to acquire a diesel truck.

Andrew presented his plan to contract with Viking (a sole source vendor) to purchase the truck body and chassis which would then be “built out” to specifications over the next two years. Viking would “hold the paper” on the truck and the Town would not need to pay anything until the work was completed and the truck delivered (approximately two years). The approximate total cost should be between \$280,000 - \$300,000. At the time the money is due, the Town should have approximately half of the total, and as many of the town’s existing loans will have been paid off, will be able to borrow the remainder. It is hopeful that at that time, the Town will be able to avail itself of the Municipal Equipment Loan Fund (which is very low interest rates – currently 2-3%). The Board and Andrew also discussed how to handle future truck needs and Andrew put forth that once the purchase of this new truck was completed, that the Town should move forward with refurbishing its existing fleet (about ½ the cost of a new truck) and if properly planned could be managed between Winter seasons so as to not impact snow removal. The Board indicated its preference for this and advised Andrew to develop a refurbishment plan with costs for approval and ultimate implementation. Regarding the new truck the Board put forth the following: **Motion: The Board approves the purchase of a new 10-wheel truck through Sourcewell Vendor Viking Cives as presented by the Road Supervisor, Andrew Richardson. (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)**

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Old Business

Town Administrator Report:

Light Rail from MA into Brattleboro and up to Essex Junction – Nick reported in his role on the WRC Transportation Committee, that Windham County and other Vermont counties are backing a move by Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut to build out additional railroad trips from Greenfield, MA up through Brattleboro and on up to Essex Junction. While there is no financial (or otherwise physical impact) for Marlboro, having twice a day train service up to Essex Junction and down into MA & CT where connections to rail to NYC and beyond can only be advantageous for Vermonter.

Nick just wanted to report this to the Board and noted that there is nothing the Board needs to do, this was purely informational.

Motion: Finding that premature knowledge of the topic that we need to discuss now would be deleterious to the public & town, the Select Board deems it necessary to hold an Executive Session and Move: 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) @ 7:47p.

Return to regular session @ 8:40p (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

Motion to Adjourn @ 8:41p (Skramstad/Welch – Passed unanimously)