

Board of Selectmen
Deb Bourbeau, Chairman
Joseph Asklar
John Rizza
Betty O'Brien
Louise Concodello

Town Manager
David R. Porter

Town of Marlborough



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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Town Hall

7:00 p.m.

1) Call to Order

Deb Bourbeau called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present were John Rizza, Betty O'Brien, Deb Bourbeau, Louise Concodello, Joe Asklar (joined at 7:22 pm), and David Porter-Town Manager.

2) Acceptance of Minutes

a) December 19, 2023, Regular Meeting

Ms. Concodello motioned to accept minutes from December 19, 2023. Ms. O'Brien seconded.

Ms. O'Brien requested clarification on page 2, Unfinished Business, Holiday Schedule:

- Holiday Schedule 2024 – June 30, 2025. Ms. Bourbeau explained the issues concerning the Town staff holiday schedule for 2024 through June 30, 2025, as the schedule will go from a calendar year to a fiscal year. She provided the labor contract language for all to understand how the holiday schedule is formulated. Per contract there shall be one floating holiday which may be divided into two half (1/2) days. A lengthy discussion concerning the floating holiday for the staff for 2024 involved information from Town Manager David Porter who polled the staff as to their preference. The staff reached a consensus for two half (1/2) days, and the days chosen were Friday after July 4th (July 5th), and the Tuesday before Christmas (December 24th).

All in favor of accepting minutes as amended, motion carried.

MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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3) Additions to the Agenda

4) Public Comments

Alan Miller 305 No Main – Mr. Miller read the following statement

“This past Saturday, 12/30/2023, I received a letter from David Porter informing me of my responsibilities pertaining to snow removal upon the recently installed sidewalks in front of my property. In short, it implied that I, a property owner abutting the sidewalks, has the burden of clearing any snow/ice upon it during inclement weather; however, the town is the abutting property owner, as they own the footage on the property owner’s side of the sidewalk – not me. Therefore, it is the town’s responsibility!”

Trying to place this burden upon the property owner who “fronts” the sidewalk is an act of irresponsibility, etc. We, the property owners behind the sidewalks, never asked to have them placed in front of us. They are not only for the benefit of us, but everyone else in town; therefore, the burden should be placed equally – not placed upon less than 1% of the residential property owners!

In towns like Wethersfield, where I grew up as a young child, and other towns such as West Hartford, Glastonbury, and East Hartford, clearing of sidewalks was very important during the winter, as children within a certain distance of their school were required to walk to school – no busing! (I had to, for 12 years, walk in all kinds of weather to school). So, where is the real need to have the sidewalks cleared during this short period of the year?

As Denzel Washington, in the movie Equalizer, said, ‘do the right thing’. That is what I’m asking of you; don’t make the town look poorly in the eyes of others, where they will feel that there exists an unequal justice placed upon the citizenry of Marlborough. (Don’t push the town’s responsibility upon a few individuals, when it should be taking the responsibility).

Simple Solution: If the town wants an easy way out of their responsibility, then simply make it known that “use of the sidewalk in winter inclement weather is at the person’s risk”.

Jason Johnson 215 No Main – Mr. Johnson received the same letter as Mr. Miller and does not agree with a fine imposed on the homeowner if they do not have the sidewalk cleared within 24 hours. He is not in agreement with homeowners having responsibility for the sidewalks.

David Hanson 5 Chapman Road – He received the same letter from the town regarding sidewalk snow removal. Mr. Hanson would like clarification on articles 309 – 312 (306-308 were not included) regarding what constitutes an obstruction on the sidewalk. He also spoke to the liability of sidewalk repair being placed on the homeowners.

MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Ms. Bourbeau suggested the BOS research state statutes to determine what is required. Ms. O'Brien would like to know what it would cost the town to handle the snow removal. Mr. Porter will investigate costs and review with Ms. Bourbeau.

Ann Kilby 414 Johnson Road – Ms. Kilby is democratic registrar of voters. Presented a resume for the republican registrar of voters included in the package for tonight's meeting. Ms. Kilby reviewed the position requirements.

5) New Business

a) Request From Nature Trails & Sidewalk Commission to Appropriate \$500.00 From the Open Space & Land Acquisition Fund

Ms. Bourbeau reviewed the proposal from Kenjii Langlois for a sign at the trail behind the school to be installed by the Eagle Scouts. Prior to the meeting, Mr. Hughes confirmed to Ms. Bourbeau, it is not a conflict to allocate the funds (\$500). Ms. Concodello provided clarification of what the signage would look like. Discussion ensued regarding appropriating the funds and any possible fund raising by the Eagle Scouts. Consensus is to check with the Boy Scouts regarding appropriate protocol before allocating the funds and more detail on the project. Mr. Porter will follow up with the Boy Scouts and/or Mr. Langlois.

b) Employee Resignations / New Hires

a. Approve Recommendation to Hire a Part-Time Constable

Mr. Porter provided background information on this position. Michael Rhodes has been interviewed and Mr. Porter recommends he be hired contingent on all pre-hire requirements.

Ms. O'Brien motioned to approve the hiring of Michael Rhodes for Part-Time Constable contingent on him meeting all pre-hire requirements. Mr. Asklar seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

b. Approve Recommendation to Hire a Public Works Mechanic

Mr. Porter provided background information on the position. Bill Lord has presented an application for the position. Mr. Porter requested the BOS approve the hiring of Bill Lord.

Ms. Concodello motioned to approve the hire of Bill Lord as Public Works Mechanic. Mr. Asklar seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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c) Boards/Commissions Resignations, Appointments, Reappointments

Republican registrar of voters' applicant, Michele Anne Kacy was discussed. Ms. Concodello voiced her positive experience with Ms. Kacy.

Ms. Concodello motioned to approve the appointment of Michele Anne Kacy as republican registrar. Mr. Rizza seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Joe Asklar excused himself from the meeting for the BOS to discuss Kevin Asklar's application for Zoning Commission Alternate since Kevin is his son.

Ms. Concodello motioned to appoint Kevin Asklar as Zoning Commission Alternate. Ms. O'Brien seconded.

Ms. O'Brien voiced her concerns for Kevin Asklar as Zoning Commission Alternate member based on various zoning issues handled when Mr. Kevin Asklar was the chair of the Zoning Commission. Ms. Bourbeau concurred with Ms. O'Brien's comments.

Ms. Concodello spoke favorably about Kevin Asklar's appointment as Zoning Commission Alternate due to his previous experience as chair of the commission.

Mr. Rizza agrees with his colleagues (Ms. Bourbeau and Ms. O'Brien) and feels it would be good to allow new members of the community to serve on the commissions.

VOTE:

Ms. Concodello - Yes

Mr. Rizza – No

Ms. O'Brien – No

Ms. Bourbeau - No

Motion did not carry with a three to one vote.

6) Unfinished Business

7) Town Manager Updates

- Advertised for tax clerk and payroll & benefits clerk. Four applications for each position have been received. Anticipates posting for the permanent finance director position at the end of January.
- He is mindful that communication is important to the residents and feels a monthly newsletter is a good idea. It will also be posted on the website.
- Ms. Porter wants to reinvigorate the signups for FlashVote. He asked for input

MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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- on how to get the word out. Ms. Bourbeau suggested a Town Manager monthly 'memo' in the RiverEast to alert the public on town activities. Discussion ensued on various options.
- He feels the fire department did an excellent job during the last weather event. He feels we may have fallen short notifying the public. Mr. Porter suggested engaging a service to send out automated messages.
- HVAC project starting January 8, 2024. Mr. Porter explained logistics for the staff work areas that will be inconvenienced during the project. Mr. Asklar asked about the prints for compliance and approval of the permit which, as Fire Marshal, should have come across his desk. Mr. Porter will follow up.
- Marlborough has been allocated up to \$8,000,000 of state funding, including water funding, which could be used to extend sewers across Route 2. It would require a referendum. \$2,000,000 (25%) would be in the form of a grant and \$6,000,000 (75%) would be a low interest loan (2% for 20 years).

8) Selectmen Updates

- Ms. Bourbeau reported she will be attending; with Ms. Concodello, Mr. Rizza and Mr. Porter, CCM workshops on Saturday, January 6, 2024.
- Ms. Bourbeau talked about evaluation information received from other towns. She requested the BOS members review ASAP to craft a document for the Town of Marlborough. Ms. Bourbeau would like to set up meetings to review in January.

9) Department Reports

a) Budget / Financial

b) Building Permit Refunds / Activity Report

10) Correspondence

Ms. Bourbeau reported the state police report was included in the packet.

11) Public Comments

Alan Miller – Jay Johnson provided Mr. Miller with state statutes regarding homeowners' responsibility for the sidewalks. He reiterated his feeling that sidewalk responsibility should be with the town.

Ms. Bourbeau adjourned the public meeting at 8:25.

Mr. Asklar motioned to enter Executive Session. Ms. Concodello seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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12)Executive Session: Personnel Matter

Mr. Rizza motioned to leave Executive Session at 9:01 pm. Ms. O'Brien seconded. All in favor and motion carried.

13)Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Monterville
Board Clerk

MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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