



OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

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SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

January 31, 2024

Chairman Pitt called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Selectman Paight and Selectman Nelson were present. Also in attendance were Ellen Smith, Town Administrator, Don Ware of Pennichuck Water Service Corporation, Roland Veaudry and Dustin Franco.

Don was in to discuss the proposed agreement to have Pennichuck take over the operations of the drinking water system. The main concern with both parties is the emergency response. TA Smith will pull the current Water Works Emergency Plan and meet with Justin, Pennichuck and DPW to determine how different situations will be handled. Pennichuck will be able to troubleshoot problems remotely, supported by the DPW. At this point the target date for the change in water operator is either March 1 or April 1.

Don left the meeting at 11:15 am.

Linda Ferranti and Glenn Parker joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams to discuss the Bell Tower Project. Several months ago, the board of selectmen established the Bell Tower Committee made up of members of the Marlborough Garden Club the purpose of which is to apply for a grant to improve land at the Bell Tower site and install a walkway along the river. The grant would be awarded to the town and requires some matching funds. The committee submitted a warrant article for consideration to the board of selectmen to raise approximately 1/3 of the project cost or approximately \$55,000 through taxation.

The group discussed the fact that Marlborough has been lacking a center since Route 101 bifurcated the town. This group is trying to create a community space. The project was discussed several times throughout 2023 and it was never presented as being privately funded. The board will discuss this further and get back to Linda and Glenn.

The Teams meeting ended at 11:45 am.

The board discussed the fact that this is an "extra" project and they believe the board should stick to infrastructure capital and improvement projects. TA Smith will let Linda know that the board believes this is a worthy project but looking at all the

funding necessary for the core projects they do not believe they are in a position to include this article on the warrant. They should submit a petition warrant article.

A petition warrant article was submitted to raise \$295,000 for the library addition and renovation project. This will add \$1.36 to the town tax rate.

TA Smith received the topographical plan from surveyor David Mann. A meeting will be scheduled with David Bergeron, site engineer, to discuss layout for the restructuring of the RTC.

Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Paight seconded a motion to approve the February 1, 2024, Direct Deposit Register in the amount of \$11,782.37 and the Accounts Payable Check Register in the amount of \$10,554.66. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Paight seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 23, 2023, the vote to approve was 2-0-1 as Chairman Pitt was not at that meeting.

Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Paight seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 pm. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Smith, Town Administrator