

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

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Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Christopher Martin, and Michele Gonzales; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Zoning Administrator Kathleen Hayes; Visitors: Rachel Hellman (Seven Days); Patrick Healy (School Board Chair); Wes Cate

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

**Executive Session:** The Board entered executive session to conduct interviews for the road crew position. The Board returned to open session at 6:30 p.m. Rich moved to offer the job to candidate one at a rate of \$24 per hour with a .50 raise at the end of the probationary period, contingent upon a satisfactory pre-employment drug screen and satisfactory driving record. Michele seconded – all in favor.

**Public Comment:** Rachel Hellman asked for an interview regarding the Harris zoning issue. Rich explained that the “lawsuit” referred to on Front Porch Forum is actually a zoning enforcement issue. Mr. Harris has never been denied a permit for the camps that he runs, but he doesn’t always apply for a permit. He has been told that he can get a permit for ongoing activity but he doesn’t want to apply for an ongoing permit. He doesn’t believe that he needs a permit but when that was decided by the DRB, he did not appeal the decision.

**Town Meeting:** The Board discussed whether to move to Australian Ballot for this year. Rich suggested that it might be better to have an open meeting this year, but put an article on the warning to change to Australian Ballot for all future meetings. Bobbi suggested that we could also try changing the date to Saturday. Rich moved to hold an open town meeting. Chris seconded – all in favor. Michele moved to discuss changes to either the date or the Australian Ballot, with wording to be determined after consultation with VLCT, and make first on the agenda. Rich seconded – all in favor.

**School Budget:** Patrick Healy discussed the budget and tax rate. The tax rate in Marshfield will increase by 7 cents. The budget will increase by \$757,000 due to increases in health care, salaries, capital investment and other expenses, and a decrease in federal funding. The homestead tax will increase an estimated 5%. There will be a budget discussion at the School Board meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>, and there will be a public hearing on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Both meetings are in person and also accessible via Zoom.

**Old Schoolhouse Common:** The Board reviewed a list of issues that need to be fixed at the Old Schoolhouse. Chris will ask Lindsey Simanskas if he can fix the issues on the list. They reviewed a quote for LED bulbs for several lights that are out. The Board approved purchasing the bulbs.

**Expenses, Permits & Payroll:** Selectboard members read and approved reports for General Expenses and Payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the January 17, 2023 Selectboard Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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