

**2015 TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
WARNING FOR ANNUAL MEETING  
OF TOWN OF MORETOWN AS A TOWN AND AS A TOWN  
SCHOOL DISTRICT TO BE HELD MARCH 3, 2015**

The inhabitants of the Town of Moretown who are legal voters in Town and Town School District meetings are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Moretown Town Hall in Moretown Village on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 9 o'clock in the forenoon to act upon the following matters:

1. **To elect a moderator to preside at the meeting of the Town and Town School District whose term of office shall be for the ensuing year.** Randy George nominated Steve Magill, and Clarence Wood seconded. Tom Martin asked if there were any other nominations and there were none. The ayes have it.
2. **To hear and act upon the reports of the Town and Town School District officers.** John Riley moved to accept the town reports. John Fulton seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
3. **To cast ballots for Town and Town School District officers. Voting to be by Australian ballot. Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** No discussion.
4. **To see if the Town will vote to have its current taxes paid to the Town Treasurer in one installment due and payable by midnight on October 30, 2015.** Clark Amadon so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. Cherilyn Brown recommended that the Town not accept postmark dates, and instead have a concrete tax payment receipt date of October 30. Cherilyn moved that the article now read "To see if the Town will vote to have its current taxes paid to the Town Treasurer in one installment due, payable and received by 5p.m. on October 30, 2015." Clark Amadon seconded. Richard Hungerford asked what day of the week October 30, 2015 was. The response was "Friday." Clarence Wood stated that you should not dismiss the postmark date as it being paid by the deadline. Clarence added that there should be no cut off during the day and that it should remain a midnight deadline. Johanne Gray stated that if payment is mailed on the 25<sup>th</sup> there is still no guarantee that it will be received by the 30<sup>th</sup>. Judith Kitchell that "received" should be "received." A vote was had on the amendment. The ayes have it. The article is amended. A vote was had on the article as amended. No discussion on the article as amended. The ayes have it. The article as amended is passed.
5. **To see if the Town will vote to offer a discount on taxes.** John Riley moves that the Town not offer a discount on taxes. Clarence Wood seconded. Michelle Saffron asked what this article means. John

Hoogenboom responded that it meant if you paid your taxes early enough, you would receive a certain discount. Dan Zucker made a point of order. Dan stated that the article as warned is stated as an affirmative action and that the motion made is to negate the article as warned which could only really happen via a "nay" vote by the house. Steve Magill explained the inherent lack of clarity of this article and how it is voted upon. Because there needs to be an affirmative motion on the floor, Steve Magill found John Riley's motion to be out of order. Clarence Wood moved to offer a discount on taxes. Mary Larsen seconded. Dan Zucker stated that he would like to offer an amendment to insert the word "not" in between "to" and "offer." Steve Magill stated that the amendment was out of order as it would make the motion a negative motion. Sasha Bianchi asked whether this article could be changed next year. Steve Magill stated that this should be brought to the attention again to the Selectboard in January. John Hoogenboom stated that he believes the article has to be written like that. Clarence Wood asked to withdraw his motion, and Steve refused as it had already been seconded and is on the floor. The vote on the floor is to have a discount on taxes. The nays have it.

6. **To see if the Town will vote to set the tax warrant date on real property as November 2, 2015.** Rube Scharges so moved and John Hoogenboom seconded. Judith Kitchell asked what this article means. Cherylyn explained that this was the date that any delinquent tax amount goes to the tax collector on this date. John Riley stated that the treasurer has authority to collect the taxes and that at a certain point she grants a warrant to the tax collector who then has the authority to collect the taxes. The November 2<sup>nd</sup> date is the next business day after the tax due date, and then the treasurer has the authority to pass the tax debt on to the tax collector. The vote on the floor was to set the tax warrant date as November 2, 2015. The ayes have it.
  
7. **Shall the voters of the Moretown Town School District appropriate the sum of \$2,221,773 necessary for the support of the school, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016? Voting to be by Australian ballot. Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Tom Badowski from the school board was present to answer questions. Mary Larsen asked why Moretown's school budget is a good several thousand more dollars than neighboring towns. Tom Badowski responded that there were several reasons. One, the school is carrying a considerable amount of more debt than the other schools. However, most of that debt which stemmed from construction thirty years ago should be retired by 2016. 2016-2017 should see about a 3% reduction. Also, the school has a much smaller student population than the others. The school also has a higher than average special needs population, and the town must pay \$0.49 on the dollar to cover these students (the rest is taken care of by the State). In addition, the school has a very senior staff, and the longer one

has been there the higher salary is received. Mary Larsen then asked whether the school board is anticipating any big capital improvements that might incur more debt. Tom Badowski stated that from a capital standpoint, the answer is no. However, there has been discussion about putting extra monies into a capital reserve for the future. The issue now is that the State is looking at taking away the small school grants (aprox \$60,000/year) away and so extra monies might be needed. Mary Larsen asked about ghost student monies. Tom responded that we only have about two of those.

8. **Shall the voters authorize the Board of School Directors of Moretown Town School District to borrow money by issuance of notes in anticipation of revenue to pay the expenses of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016?** John Schmeltzer so moved and Rube Scharges seconded. Tom Badowski stated this is really important. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
  
9. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown vote the sum of \$1,062,837.00 for the support of the Town, for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015, for any operating expenses and other obligations? Voting to be by Australian ballot. Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** There was no discussion.
  
10. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown authorize its Select Board to borrow money with which to pay its lawful debts and expenses for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015 in anticipation of the collection of taxes for that purpose?** Rube Scharges so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.

Steve Magill suspended the rules so Clarence Wood could ask a question. Clarence asked whether we could combine the next twenty (20) articles and pass them on one vote. Steve Magill stated that we could only combine a certain number of articles so long as the amount of monies included does not surpass \$5,000. John Fulton said that although that was a good idea, he'd like to talk to article 11 because that was new. Steve Magill stated that for instance we could combine articles 11-15. Michelle Saffron asked whether combining articles really saves time. Steve said that if a mere one person does not want to combine, there is no combining. Michelle Beard stated that she does not want to combine.

- 11. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to help support the work of our children's sports activities (i.e. little league and soccer programs) at Couples Field in Waitsfield, Vt., thereby joining the other Towns in the Valley in support of maintaining Couples Field by The Couples Club Inc.?** Amy Patenaud so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. John Fulton stated that this was a new and important article, especially because Moretown kids approximate more than 50% of those Valley children utilizing the fields. John added that \$500 is the least that the town could contribute. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
- 12. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$400.00 to help support the work of Capstone Community Action Inc., formerly known as Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc.?** Eliza Kane so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. John Lynch stated that this was a great program that he used to work for. The organization performs such functions as buying cars for people that cannot do so on their own. There was not more discussion. The ayes have it.
- 13. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to help support the work of Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired?** Jennifer Trip-Meade so moved and Diane Costello seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
- 14. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$1,100.00 to help support the work of Central Vermont Council on Aging, Inc.?** Dara Torre so moved and John Lynch seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
- 15. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$150.00 to help support the work of Washington County Youth Service Bureau / Boys & Girls Club?** Jennifer Trip-Meade so moved and Rube Scharges seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
- 16. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$3,500.00 to help support the work of Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice?** Mary Larsen so moved and Jon Schmeltzer seconded. Clarence Wood asked about his motion to combine made earlier. Steve Magill responded that it had failed. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
- 17. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$1,200.00 to help support the work of Central Vermont Adult Basic Education?** Amy Patenaud so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. John Lynch stated that program accomplishes a lot of great work for a lot of

people. John Lynch stated that he used to tutor within the program and he is now working to get two mothers their driver's licenses. Mike Brooke asked whether there was some way these organizations could put together a report for the town report delineating what they do and how many people within the town they serve. Steve Magill said that only one article can be discussed at this time. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it. John Weir added, without objection as to him not being a registered voter, that all the reports supplied by most of these organizations are available on the website for review. Dare Torre, auditor, stated that traditionally these organization reports are traditionally not included in the town report but are available on the website. Dara added that should there be some sort of consensus as to a certain dollar amount triggering an organizational report's inclusion in the town report, the auditors would be happy to do so. Michelle Beard added that only some organizations supply reports to the town.

- 18. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$200.00 to help support the work of RSVP (Retired Senior and Volunteer Program)?** Clarence Wood so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
- 19. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$300.00 to help support the work of Good Beginnings of Central Vermont?** Eliza Cain so moved and Jennifer Trip-Meade seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
- 20. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to help support the work of Family Center of Washington County?** Diana Costello so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. Dave Van Deusen asked what it is they do. Sasha Bianchi stated that they support all childcare organizations, including childcare and early education. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
- 21. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$700.00 to help support the work of People's Health & Wellness Clinic?** Dave Van Deusen so moved and Mary Larsen seconded. Dave Van Deusen stated that this is very important in providing free medical care to those without insurance. David Van Deusen moved for an amendment that the sum given be raised to \$1,400. Rae Washburn seconded. Michelle added that this year's request was \$200 more than last year. Mary Larsen added this program also provides mental care and psychiatric care as well as health care. There was no more discussion on the amendment raising the sum to \$1,400. The ayes have it. The article is amended to appropriate a sum of \$1,400 to the Clinic. There was no discussion on the motion as amended. The ayes have it. The article is passed as amended.

- 22. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$200.00 to help support the work of Circle (formerly Battered Women's Services and Shelter)?** Eliza Cain so moved and Tina Valentanetti seconded. Eliza Cain stated the program changed its name because they serve men as well as women and children. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
- 23. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$400.00 to help support the work of Home Share Now, Inc.?** Jennifer Tripp-Meade so moved and Mary Larsen seconded. Howland Brown asked what this organization did. Dara Torre stated that this program is a creative solution for housing. Some people open their doors to others in a house-sharing scenario and that local residents are participating in it. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
- 24. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$400.00 to help support the work of Prevent Child Abuse Vermont?** Tom Badowski so moved and Bruce Saffron seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
- 25. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$150.00 to help support the work of Sexual Assault Crisis Team of Washington County?** Tina Valentanetti so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
- 26. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to help support the work of OUR House of Central Vermont?** Eliza Cain so moved and Dara Torre seconded. Rube Scharges asked what this organization did. Sasha Bianchi stated that it provides services to neglected and sexually abused children. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
- 27. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$945.00 to help support the work of Green Mountain Transit Agency?** Dar Torre so moved and Jennifer Trip-Meade seconded. Michelle Saffron asked what this organization did. Reed Karrow stated that they provide bus services. Dara Torre stated they also provide a seasonal shuttle called the Snowcat Commute that provides ride services to the Valley. Michelle Saffron asked whether it was free. Dara Torre stated that it is \$1/ride. Dave Van Deusen asked to whether to amend the article to raise the sum contributed so that it was free. The motion was not made. Mary Larsen stated that \$1 for a bus ride was fair. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.

**28. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$300.00 to help support the work of the Montpelier Senior Activity Center?** Tina Valentanetti so moved and Michelle Saffron seconded. Tina Valentanetti explained that Montpelier was probably the most active senior center in the state. For a modest membership of \$30 seniors have access to a whole host of classes and fee events, clinics, events and meals. Michelle Saffron added that as a member-town the membership fee for Moretown residents is \$30 rather than \$50. Moretown is a member-town upon paying the yearly contribution as requested. Howland Brown asked whether we could more evenly spread out the monetary allotments for the three (3) senior centers in these articles. Harland Brown moved to combine articles 28 and 29. Rube Scharges objected. The motion fails. Tom Martin stated that if people agree with Howland, these articles can still be amended up or down if desired. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.

Steve Magill asked whether people wanted to suspend the rules in order to discuss articles 29 and 30 so that they could discuss them together. A 2/3 vote of the house is needed to suspend the rules to discuss the combined articles. Steve Magill asked those in support of suspending the rules for a non-binding discussion on combined articles 29 and 30 to stand. The vote was 48-2 in favor of suspending the rules. A non-binding discussion ensued as to articles 29 and 30. Rube Scharges stated that the Waterbury Area Senior Citizens Center is asking for five (5) times what the Mad River Valley is asking for. Rube stated that it should be more even. Tom Badowski stated that it really depends on where you live. Mary Larsen stated that one year recently the Waterbury Senior Citizens Center didn't get their request in and they were given nothing, so they asked for more the following year and were only given half of that request. Dara Torre stated that she works for the MRV Senior Citizens Center and that she works with Karol Smith who is the Executive Director at the Waterbury Senior Center. Dara said there are different operating costs between the two. The MRV center has a favorable rental situation as Evergreen Place and does not have an executive director. Tina Valentanetti said these places aren't really in competition with each other. Randy asked about the breakdown of Moretown residents between the two centers. Mary Larsen responded that last year the Waterbury center served eleven (11) residents, with twenty-five (25) being served the year prior. Dara Torre stated that five (5) residents were served in the Montpelier center. Also the MRV center has great meals on wheels program, as does the Waterbury center. Steve Magill asked whether there were any objections to non-registered voter Karol Smith – Executive Director at the Waterbury Senior Citizens Center – to speak as to that program. There were none. Karol stated that there are presently thirty-eight (38) Moretown residents being served by the Waterbury center. The goal is to keep seniors active, healthy and living at home. Clarence Wood asked why the dollar requests are so

different. Karol Smith stated that the \$4,999 amount was requested so that it could be set for discussion at the Town Meeting rather than the Selectboard. She added that Waterbury provides \$30,000 in funds and Middle sex provides \$10,000 although Middlesex has fewer residents than Moretown does participating in the center's programs and activities. Mary Larsen asked whether the total of 38-people was consistent throughout the year. Karol Smith stated that the total was an aggregate, and that the total was not consistent throughout the whole year. Bruce Saffron asked whether there were any limits on who is served. Karol Smith said there were not, absent coordination with the MRV center as to who is being served by each. Mike asked whether it would be better to pay per resident instead. Karol Smith stated that it was approximate \$4/meal, 52 weeks per year. Karol stated that \$5,000 could serve five (5) residents for the entire year. Some Moretown residents come every day of the year for two meals per day. Sasha Orwell stated that these people do this work on their own time and that we should all take care of each other as we get older. Tom Martin asked Karol how the center reached out to residents. Karol stated there is a lot of word of mouth, also doctors, front porch forum and the newspaper. Sasha Bianchi stated that there was no report provided by the Waterbury center, and it would be good to know how many residents are being served and what is being done for them. Michelle Saffron asked that if we gave more money to the MRV center could they provide more opportunities, such as meals on wheels, to those in Moretown, or at least coordinate more with Waterbury's center. Dara Torre said might be difficult and that taking from one center to give more to another is a good idea. Steve Robbins added that if these groups are requesting a certain amount, then they probably need it. Steve added, however, that \$4,999 seems like a lot and that level-funding might be fairer. Sasha Bianchi stated that Moretown is so spread out that geography should be considered. Amy Patenaud stated that there are no boundaries on these services and that people probably utilize all three senior citizens throughout the year, and that there should be no financial boundaries as well. John Fulton asked whether there was still bus service to the Waterbury center. Karol Smith responded that there was on Wednesdays. There was no more discussion as to the combined articles.

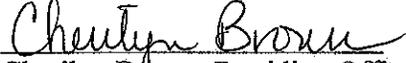
- 29. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to help support the work of the Mad River Valley Senior Citizens Center?** Jennifer Trip-Meade so moved and Steve Robbins seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
- 30. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$ 4999.00 to help support the work of the Waterbury Area Senior Citizens Center?** Tom Badowski so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. Rube Scharges moved to amend the article down to the sum of \$3,000. Steve Robbins seconded. Discussion: Michelle Beard stated that the

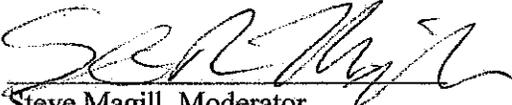
Waterbury center came to the meeting this year with information unlike last year where they were only given half of their request. Having come this year with the necessary information we should give them the full amount. Dan Zucker stated that the town is better off this year and the amendment should be opposed. Steve Magill asked whether there were any objections to non-registered voter John Summers speak. There were none. John Summers stated that of all these organizations we give money to these have the most return insofar as saving the town other moneys. Tom Martin said that \$5,000 represents about one quarter of one cent on your tax bill. Clark Amadon opposes the amendment and noted the aging population and what will be an increasing need for these services. Dave Van Deusen stated that, if there is such a need for these services, then maybe Moretown should discuss setting up its own senior center in the village. There was no more discussion on the amendment. As to the vote on the amendment lowering the sum given to \$3,000, the nays have it. The motion to amend fails. There was no discussion on the motion as originally presented for \$4,999. The ayes have it.

- 31. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown formally establish the Moretown Memorial Library as a municipal public library, allowing the Town to accept any bequest, devise, or donation for the establishment, maintenance and support of the library?** Dave Van Deusen so moved and Denise Sanders seconded. Mary Larsen asked this article would change anything. Meg Allison stated that this was a mere formality so that the library could formally be recognized as a municipal establishment for certain procedure and purposes. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
- 32. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown authorize the Selectboard to use the revenue in the Recreation Fund for the maintenance or improvement of the Town's recreation fields and related events, at the discretion of the Selectboard upon the recommendation of the Recreation Committee, or at the direction of the voters of the Town at a duly warned annual or special meeting?** Clarence Wood so moved and Jennifer Tripp-Meade seconded. Diana Costello asked whether there was a recreation committee. John Lynch stated that there was once. John's wife used to be but is no longer. Deb Hunter stated that historically there was a committee, but there is real need for one. Deb stated that this is work that can be done by the Selectboard. Dan Zucker asked whether a nay vote would change anything. John Hoogenboom said "yes" a nay vote would deprive any funding for recreation. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
- 33. To do any other business that may legally come before the meeting.** Steve Magill asked whether there were any questions as to the Harwood budget. There were none. Clarence Wood thanked the town clerk,

Selectboard and road foremen on their work. Chief Will Houghton of the Fire Department stated that the department is always looking for new firefighters. David Tromblay stated the Mad River Ambulance is always looking for more volunteers. Maxine Grad spoke as to what is going on in the legislature right now. Adam Greshen spoke as well to current business in the legislature. Clark Amadon provided an update on the new town office. The project was just approved by the Moretown Development Review Board. Rube Scharges provided an update on the Town Plan which was just updated and revised and is pending Selectboard review via public hearing. Rube added that almost no one came to the public input sessions for the draft and people should in the future as this is a very important document. Tom Martin thanked Reed Korrow for his service on the Selectboard and that they will be looking for a new Selectman or woman. David Tromblay inquired about the discussion last town meeting concerning changing to the Australian ballot. Tom Martin responded that a special meeting was had and no one showed up. John Lynch moved to adjourn and Mary Larsen seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 12:08p.m.

Dated at Moretown, Vermont the 8th day of March, 2015.

  
Cheryl Brown, Presiding Officer

  
Steve Magill, Moderator