

**WARNING FOR ANNUAL MEETING
OF TOWN OF MORETOWN AS A TOWN AND AS A TOWN
SCHOOL DISTRICT TO BE HELD MARCH 1, 2016**

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 1, 2016 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.** Denise Sanders nominated Steve Magill, and Ben Sanders seconded. Tom Martin asked if there were any other nominations, and there were none. Amy Patenaude moved to close, and Ben Sanders seconded. The ayes have it.
2. **To hear and act upon the reports of the Town and Town School District officers.** Clarence Wood moved to accept the reports, and Karen Horn 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.** There was no discussion.
4. **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 5 p.m. on November 1, 2016.** Amy Patenaude so moved and Rube Scharges. Karen Horn asked whether last year we made it midnight on that date. Tom Martin said "no." Tom said that there was a motion on the floor last year to accept a 5:00p.m. deadline amendment which was approved. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
5. **To see if the Town will vote to set the tax warrant date on real property as November 2, 2016.** Clarence Wood so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. Laura Ellenwood asked what a tax warrant date was. Tom Martin responded that this was the date that any delinquent tax amount goes to the tax collector. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
6. **Shall the voters of the Moretown School District approve the School Board to expend \$2,470,904, which is the amount the School Board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$17,697 per equalized pupil. This projected education spending per equalized pupil is 0.50% higher than spending for the current year. Voting to be by Australian ballot. Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Steve Magill asked residents whether they had any questions for the school board, as this was the article in which to ask. Ron Shems was present on behalf of the school board to help answer any questions. Hoover Austin asked how many special education children there were for Moretown. Ron Shems stated that the number has gone down, believing it to be less than ten (10). Denise Sanders stated that if there are less than ten (10) total students, than that information is suppressed. Amy Patenaude stated that the school budget is 0.50% higher than the current year, and asked whether the town still remained under the State's threshold. Ron stated that "yes" the Town remains under that threshold. No penalty would be assessed. There was no more discussion.

- 7. 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, 2017?** Rube Scharges so moved, and Johanne Gray seconded. Dan Zucker asked whether someone could respond about timing and whether or not the Town has to frequently borrow monies while taxes are still being collected. Ron Shems responded that generally the Town doesn't but this was a standard article. Marianne Barton then inquired whether the Board anticipated needing to borrow these monies this coming year. Ron Shems stated again that this was a standard article and the Board did not anticipate needing to borrow anything for the upcoming year. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
- 8. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown vote the sum of \$1,072,662 for the support of the Town, for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016, 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.** Steve Magill asked whether there were any questions. Chuck Burt asked why the Town went over the general legal fund allotment for this past year. Tom Martin responded that this was due to litigation over a town trail off Moretown Mountain Road. Dan Zucker asked about the big jump in the printing and publication budget. Tom Martin responded that this jump in monies was due to the additional primaries in August as well as the general election in November. Dan Zucker then asked about the idea of opting into an electronic version of the Town Report. Tom Martin said this discussion has been had but they have decided in the past to stick with printed materials. However, Tom also stated this could be an effective cost-saving measure and one which some towns are moving to. Michelle Beard said that this was discussed at the informational meeting the prior night, and this is something that might be required by statute and will be looked into further. Chuck Burt then inquired about the line item "unforeseen" for \$88,000. Tom Martin responded that there is also a receivable line item for this as well. Tom stated that this stemmed from the Town's aid in administering a grant through FEMA to a resident whose home was flooded in Tropical Storm Irene. In providing financial assistance, FEMA required that the grant go through the town. The Town receives the monies back from FEMA. Dan Zucker then asked about pay versus employee compensation. Tom Martin responded that this year the Selectboard has set the same budget for the departments as it did last year. The additional budgeted \$9,500 is set aside for employee raises to be effectuated once the budget is approved. This is contrary to prior years where any raises were included in the budget as proposed. There was no more discussion.
- 9. 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, 2016 in anticipation of the collection of taxes for that purpose?** Ben Sanders so moved, and Johanne Gray seconded. Becky Auclair asked whether this was just a standard article like for that of the school board, or whether the Board anticipated needing to borrow monies this year. Tom Martin stated this was a standard article and has been so since the landfill closed. Tom also stated that the Town does need to borrow the money. Becky Auclair asked how much we will need to borrow. Tom responded that we already borrowed the money, and it was \$500,000. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
- 10. 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.?** Amy Patenaude so

moved, and Ben Sanders seconded. John Lynch stated that this organization has helped residents in buying cars with grants, one veteran to get housing, weatherizing houses, financial counseling, and has volunteers to help with taxes. Jason Aronowitz stated that pages 27-28 of the Town Report have information on each of the organizations that are asking for donations. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.

11. **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?** Becky Auclair so moved and Steve Sharp seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
12. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$1,400.00 to help support the work of Central Vermont Council on Aging, Inc.?** Dara Torre so moved and Chuck Burt seconded. Rube Scharges asked why there was increase in the request from last year. Dar Torre responded that there used to be an internal group called RSVP that has been rolled into this Council on Aging. In addition, there has been increased activity. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
13. **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?** Clarence Wood so moved, and Amy Patenaude seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
14. **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?** Ben Sanders so moved and Mary Larsen seconded. Marianne Barton asked whether, in general, how these amounts are generated. Tom Martin responded that these groups petition the Town for these amounts, and they can be amended higher or lower on the floor. Clarence Wood stated this group provides assistance with personal needs for those who have no help. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
15. **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?** John Lynch so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. John Lynch stated this organization does great work in helping residents get their driving license and learn computer programming. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
16. **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?** Denise Sanders so moved and Jennifer Tripp-Meade seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
17. **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?** Marianne Barton so moved and Clarence Wood seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
18. **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?** Judith Kitchell so moved and Ben Sanders seconded. Chuck Burt asked why last year this exact request was doubled to \$1,400. Steve Magill responded that Dave Van Duesen moved to double this amount from the floor last year. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.

19. **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)?** Clarence Wood so moved and Ben Sanders seconded. Clarence Wood asked that people should speak up if they have any information or experience with any of these groups or organizations. Ben Sanders stated that this group provides shelter for domestic abuse victims and their children, as well as court advocacy services and a host of training in schools to help younger people understand the dynamics of abuse. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
20. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$400.00 to help support the work of Home Share Now, Inc.?** Ben Sanders so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
21. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$400.00 to help support the work of Prevent Child Abuse Vermont?** Denise Sanders so moved and Karen Sharpwolf seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
22. **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?** Steve Sharp so moved and Steve Robbins seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
23. **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?** Clark Amadon so moved, and Karen Sharpwolf seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
24. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$600.00 to help support the work of the Montpelier Senior Activity Center?** Dara Torre so moved and Amy Patenaude seconded. Dick Valentinetti stated these different senior centers all offer various activities. Steve Magill stated that all three upcoming articles related to the different area senior centers cannot all be discussed under the same article. Steve entertained a motion to suspend the rules in order to discuss all three senior centers at the same time. Steve stated that unless there was an objection we could do so, and Dick objected. A two-thirds vote was necessary, and the rules were suspended. Dick stated that the Montpelier center offers forty-five (45) different courses, including yoga, painting and foreign language. Mary Larsen stated that if Moretown gives monies to the Montpelier center then Moretown residents get discounts for classes or other activities. Dara Torres stated that next week begins the spring enrollment for the Montpelier senior center. Cheri Lundblad asked why there was such a difference between the amounts asked between the various centers. Dara Torre responded that, with regard to the Mad River Valley (MRV) senior center, the towns of Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren allot \$7,000 to that center because they have more residents using that center. In contrast, Moretown has fewer residents using the Mad River Valley senior center and so the center has requested less money than from the other towns. Also, Dara mentioned that a lot of the MRV senior center's budget encompasses its meals on wheels program. 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 Smith stated that the budget request of the Waterbury senior center is based on the meals on wheels program. Last year the Waterbury senior center served eleven (11) Moretown residents. It costs

approximately \$1,000 to serve one senior for the entire year. The center requests less than money than it needs in order to keep the vote on the floor rather than by Australian ballot. The Waterbury center helps with taxes for seniors as well as loaning out of medical equipment. John Summers (non-voter) was given permission to speak without objection. John thanked Dara for including the information on the senior centers on pages 27-28 of the Town Report. Steve Robbins stated the MRV senior center provides great services. John Lynch stated that we better vote because he wasn't getting any younger. Laura Ellenwood asked how people decide which senior center to go to. Karol Smith responded that anyone can drop in to the Waterbury center. Dara stated that, for the meals on wheels program, whether to utilize Waterbury or the MRV senior center depends a lot on the proximity to the resident. Steve Magill stated that, unless there was more discussion, we needed to go back to the rules. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.

25. 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? Steve Robbins 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 \$500.00 to help support the work of Good Samaritan Haven? Ben Sanders so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.

27. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$4,999.00 to help support the work of the Waterbury Area Senior Citizens Center? Denise Sanders so moved and Dara Torre seconded. Marianne Barton asked whether, due to voting done by Australian ballot, there was a funding cap if a vote was to be taken on the floor. Steve Magill responded any request over \$5,000 necessitates a vote via Australian ballot. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.

28. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown vote to elect officers of the Moretown Memorial Public Library Board of Trustees for the following terms:


**3 Trustees for 3 year term
2 Trustees for 1 year term.**

Chuck Burt so moved and Becky Auclair seconded. Karen Sharpwolf stated that this article is on the ballot because last year the Town voted to make the library a municipal library, and this language was left out of that article of last year. Denise Sanders asked whether we nominate people now. Karen stated that if people are interested they could be appointed by the Selectboard at their next meeting. If so appointed, those trustees would then be placed on the ballot for next year. Denise Sanders then asked whether this was just going to be on the ballot this year because the requisite language was left out last year. Karen said yes that was correct. Karen was then asked about the health and life of the library. Karen stated that the library has seen a steady usage this year between people utilizing its various programs as well as those checking out books and videos. Rube Scharges then asked whether the library was seeking a new director. Karen stated that yes it was as Sarah Nussbaum was leaving. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it. Steve Magill then made it be known that the vote was 70-0.

29. To do any other business that may legally come before the meeting. Deb Hunter was present to speak and answer questions about the Harwood Union High School budget. Deb said that the budget has decreased from last year, with eight (8) fewer staff than last year. Deb stated that the school is operating in an efficient manner, yet still faces these mandates from the Montpelier. Deb then went over the pending Act 46 and the upcoming vote on that act in May. Clarence Wood wanted to thank the Selectboard, the Town Clerk and the Fire Department. Denise Sanders wanted to recognize the work done on the pending new office in Moretown village. Hoover Austin addressed the Selectboard and stated that more should be done in the maintenance of the newer buildings in the town so that they don't deteriorate. Joyce Manchester is the Moretown representative to the Transportation Advisory Committee and is also appointed to the MRV Moves Active Transportation group. Joyce has provided materials relating to the MRV Moves Active Transportation group and its effort to create new trails and link them to existing trails. Tom Martin wanted to be sure people knew of the pending bridge closure down to one lane. The bridge south of the village will be down to one lane for anywhere between 4-10 years. This time is mainly encompassed by studies. The bridge rails have been deemed unsafe, and the bridge itself is too narrow. Tom petitioned residents to write to the State or representatives and let their concerns over the length of the closure be known. Many residents took issue with the planned length of the closure down to one lane. Steve Smith, chief of the Fire Department, stated that the department always needs more volunteers. It doesn't matter your age or gender, or lack of experience. Any person who wants to help the volunteer fire department can be trained. Tom Martin move to adjourn, and many seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Dated at Moretown, Vermont the 4th day of March, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,


Cheryl Brown, Town Clerk


Steve Magill, Moderator