

**WARNING FOR ANNUAL MEETING
OF TOWN OF MORETOWN
TO BE HELD MARCH 7, 2017**

Unapproved

The inhabitants of the Town of Moretown who are legal voters in Town meetings are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Moretown Town Hall in Moretown Village on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon to act upon the following matters:

1. **To elect a moderator to preside at the meeting of the Town whose term of office shall be for the ensuing year.** Karen Horn nominated Steve Magill, and John Schmeltzer seconded. Tom Martin asked if there were any other nominations, and there were none. There was no discussion. The ayes have it. Clarence Wood moved to adjourn town meeting until the end of the school district meeting, and Johanne Gray seconded. The ayes have it.
2. **To hear and act upon the reports of the Town officers.** Johanne Gray moved to approve the reports, and Clarence Wood seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
3. **To cast ballots for Town 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 postmarked by November 1, 2017.** Clark Amadon so moved and Becky Auclair seconded. Karen Horn asked whether that was midnight or close of business. Jason Aronowitz responded that it was whatever the last time the post office would postmark for that day. Clark Amadon asked whether there were plans to place a drop box at the town office to receive payments. Tom Martin stated that at this point there were no plans to put a drop box there but it could be if residents so desired. Karen Horn asked to amend the article to add the option "to leave in a drop box at the town office on November 1, 2017." Katrina Brackett seconded. Kevin Beard asked whether that should be added as an amendment if the town does not have a drop box yet, and that the postmark seems to serve the purpose of capturing anyone who fails to get the payments in on time. Linda Butsch stated that the drop box amendment was vague and who would be responsible for going to the office at midnight to close it. Dan Zucker stated that, because there is no drop box, the amendment should be defeated, and the post office and postmark serve the purpose best. Becky Auclair stated that the drop box would provide those who cannot make the post office on time for payment an option to still get the payment in on the

filing date. Judith Ketchell wondered about the liability of placing such a large payment in a drop box. Tom Martin reiterated that a drop box could be considered in the future, but for now the postmark date seems to be the clearest method absent further understanding of the parameters of having a drop box. Karen Horn asked if she could withdraw the motion, and Steve said that there must be a vote instead. There was no further discussion on the amendment. The nays have it, the amendment is defeated. Steve moved the discussion back to the original article. Dan Zucker asked about the wording of the article. Catherine Scribner asked how much clearer all this could be. Hoover Austin stated that, given the way it is written, it sounded like you had to pay the taxes in one installment only. Catherine Scribner responded no. There was no further 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, 2017.** Chuck Bert so moved, and Johanne Gray seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
6. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown vote the sum of \$1,096,417.00 for the support of the Town, for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017, 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.** Clarence Wood asked if we had enough money to run the town, and Tom Martin responded yes. Tom added that the increased budget includes gravel expenses, road maintenance expenses and town employee 2% raises. Karen Sharpwolf asked why the bookkeeping expenses go up by \$10,000, and Tom responded that it was because of audit. Tom stated that there is an issue of lack of revenue, especially without the tipping fees from the landfill.
7. **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, 2017 in anticipation of the collection of taxes for that purpose?** Clarence Wood so moved and Chuck Bert seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
8. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown give the Select Board the authority to spend an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00 from the Savings Reserve Fund to pay off the 2015 dump truck?** Clarence Wood so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. Becky Auclair asked why this was being voted upon now since it was on the ballot. Jason Aronowitz move to amend the article to add at the end “voting to be by Australian ballot. Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.” Chuck Bert seconded. Steve Magill stated that he did not think that could be done. John Riley moved to amend the motion to add to the end of the article “as determined by the outcome of the Australian ballot.” Hoover Austin

seconded. Dan Zucker stated that he didn't think such an amendment approving or disapproving of a vote on the Australian ballot was permissible. Karen Horn asked whether this article could be passed over. Dan Zucker asked whether Steve Magill could rule this article invalid. Steve responded that he suspects this could be a public question and that a ruling of invalidity would not be proper. Deb Sargent questioned the legality of the vote on the floor versus the ballot. John Hoogenboom stated spending this money was voted upon in 2015 and has already been spent in effect, yet the Australian ballot is necessary because the amount here exceeds \$5,000. Johanne Gray asked whether this could be passed over. Steve responded in the affirmative. Johanne Gray moved to pass over the entire article, and Becky Auclair seconded. Steve stated that a pass over necessitates a 2/3 vote. A vote count was had. 51 voted in favor to pass over article 8, 4 voted not to pass over. The ayes have it. The article is passed over.

9. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown vote to spend an amount not to exceed \$168,000.00 and arrange financing for the purchase of a dump truck to be used by its highway department? Voting to be by Australian Ballot. Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Lewis Roy asked why we need another dump truck when we already have four. Tom stated that one of the truck is not holding up well. Lewis Roy asked about getting warranties on the trucks. Tom Martin stated that moving forward we're going to try to do better with maintenance on the trucks.

10. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown approve to spend an amount of \$31,250.00 to help the Mad River Valley Recreation District purchase the Kingsbury Mad River Park recreation field, contingent that the purchase price of \$550,000 is offset by at least \$425,000 in grant funding and donations, and that the purchase is also funded from all three other valley towns equal to or more than Moretown's contribution; and that at least one representative from Moretown be a voting member on the Mad River Valley Recreation Board for questions regarding the Mad River recreation field? Voting to be by Australian Ballot. Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00p.m.** Lewis Roy asked about maintenance fees, and Tom Martin responded that the fees would be \$1,500 per town annually. Hoover Austin stated that we have enough fields here in Moretown and would not spend this money on more fields. Steve Robbins stated that these fields are critical to Valley residents and this is a good opportunity to secure the fields for the long term. Tom Martin stated that the amount would result in an increase of \$0.0125 - \$0.015 in the tax rate. Michelle Beard stated the Moretown children make up a substantial percentage of kids using the Mad River Park fields. Karen Sharpwolf stated this would be a tremendous loss if kids were to ever lose access to the fields. Jason Aronowitz opposes spending the money on the fields as the financial

situation for the Town is tight. Eliza Cain stated that utilizing these fields helps keep kids active and on the right path. Hoover stated that people aren't looking at the big picture. Ali Compagna asked about changing demographics for the town and whether purchase of these fields would matter given the aging population. Dara Torre believes the recreational aspect of the Valley makes it attractive to younger residents. Dan Zucker stated that during the summer work week there are plenty of adults utilizing the fields, and its use is not limited to children.

11. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown vote to change the delinquent tax penalty levied to a graduated commission schedule pursuant to 32 V.S.A. Section 1674 (3), to 4 % for the first 30 days following the tax due date, and 8% thereafter?** Clarence Wood so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. Hoover Austin and Becky Auclair asked whether this was a change. John Hoogenboom responded that it was a change as it's been 8% from the day of delinquency before. 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 Cain so moved and Karen Sharpwolf seconded. John Lynch worked with this organization and stated that it is a safety net for low-income people, including buying inexpensive cars so people can get to work, head start program and finding affordable housing to name a few. There was no 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?** Karen Sharpwolf so moved and Clarence Wood seconded. Karen Sharpwolf stated that this group will come to your home and help you in various vision services. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
14. **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 Clayton Wetzel seconded. Don Larocca asked if we ever get any feedback as to how effective these programs are. John Hoogenboom stated that there is information in the reports as to what they do specifically for Moretown residents. Don Larocca stated that the amounts requested seem to go up every year. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
15. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$350.00 to help support the work of the Washington County Diversion Program?** Clarence Wood so moved and Chuck Bert seconded. Lewis

Roy asked what this program does. Jason Aronowitz asked why this program isn't supported by the State. Clark Amadon had personal experience with the program and spoke to the validity of the program helping keep first-time offenders out of the criminal justice system. Karen Horn stated that these organizations get some funding from the State but still need support from other entities to meet their budgets. John Lynch also spoke to the validity of the program keeping deserved people out of the criminal justice system. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.

16. **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 Eliza Cain seconded. Clarence Wood stated that this organization does a lot of good for both kids and families. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
17. **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?** Clayton Wetzel so moved and John Schmeltzer seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
18. **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 group will teach adults computer literacy as well help them get a GED and a driver's license. There was no more 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 Johanne Gray 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?** Dara Torre so moved and Eliza Cain seconded. John Schmeltzer stated that he has utilized these services before and they do great things. Karen Horn stated this group provides childcare services as well. 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?** Eliza Cain so moved and Bob Graves seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.

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 Clarence Wood seconded. Eliza Cain stated that this group as a 12-bed shelter and a 24-hour hotline. Karen asked Eliza how many calls the hotline get per month. Eliza responded that a staff of 6 people receive anywhere between 550-625 calls each month from people in Washington County. 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.?** Dara Torre so moved and Eliza Cain seconded. Dara Torre stated that this program helps match people who need housing with those who have extra rooms in their homes. 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?** Sasha Elwell so moved and Clayton Wetzel 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?** Clayton Wetzel so moved and Peter Langela seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.
26. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$900.00 to help support the work of the Montpelier Senior Activity Center?** Clarence Wood so moved and Dick Valentanetti seconded. Don Larocca asked why we are giving three different senior centers money. Clarence Wood stated that it is because Moretown is geographically spread out and residents go to these separate centers depending on their location. Deb Sargent stated that there are a significant amount of residents near Montpelier that get little benefit from other services funded by the Town. Dick Valentanetti spoke to the extent of the services the Montpelier center provides, including education and fitness services that the other senior centers do not provide. Don Larocca stated that maybe we should centralize the money in one center rather than all three. Steve asked whether people wanted to suspend the rules in order to discuss all three senior center articles at once. Karen Sharpwolf stated the articles are better separated due to the geographical nature of the town and that all three are important. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.
27. **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 Clayton Wetzel seconded. There was no discussion. The ayes have it.

28. **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?** Johanne Gray so moved and Dara Torre seconded. Tom Martin moved to allow someone affiliated with the program to speak. Steve asked whether there was any objection to letting a non-resident speak as to this program. She spoke that this program served 17 different Moretown residents last year, including services such as meals on wheels and trips to medical appointments. There was no more discussion. The ayes have it.

29. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$100.00 to help support the work of Green Up Vermont?** Clarence Wood so moved and Bob Graves seconded. Clarence Wood asked whether this article could be amended to make it \$200 instead of \$100. Clarence Wood so moved to amend the article to fund \$200 and Deb Sargent seconded. Karen Horn stated that this group only is active for one day and the additional money won't do much. Clayton Wetzel stated the we should make sure the trash actually gets picked up. Jason Aronowitz asked why this is new this year. Karen Horn stated that its funds were diminished by the State this year and it needs to seek additional funding sources to meet its budget. As to the amendment increasing funding to \$200, the vote was 15 in favor and 27 against. The nays have it, the amendment fails. As to the original article of providing \$100 in funding, the ayes have it.

30. **To do any other business that may legally come before the meeting.** Eliza Cain asked about an update to the bridge. Tom Martin stated that it should be replaced by 2020 according to the State. This will be an accelerated construction schedule. The State presentation is on the website. Don Larocca asked about the capitol budget and investment. Clarence Wood thanked the Selectboard, the town clerk and the road crew. John Hoogenboom thanked Michelle Beard for her years of service to the Town as she is leaving the Selectboard. Clayton Wetzel moved to adjourn and Kyla Summers seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

Dated at Moretown, Vermont this 10th day of March, 2017.

Thomas Martin, Chairman

Michelle Beard

Jason Aronowitz

John Hoogenboom

Rae Washburn III

Town of Moretown Select Board

Received and recorded this ____ day of January, 2017. A true copy.

Attest: _____