

9/20/2019

Town of Moretown

Selectboard Minutes

9/18/2019

Board Members Present: Rae Washburn, John Hoogenboom, Jason Aronowitz, Tom Martin and Tom Badowski

Guest Present: Shane Grace, Karren Horn, Jonathan Siegel, Paula woods, Don LaRocca, Stephan Pratt, Bruce and Michelle Saffran, John, Burns, Catrina Brackett and Cheryl Brown

Meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Tom Martin

General Public Comment: Karen horn spoke to the board about the letter she sent to the Valley Reporter asking why the municipal tax rate had doubled. The board explained that there are many factors that make up the tax rate. Things change from year to year such as anticipated income. From 2016 to 2017 it went down \$261,000 which equals about \$.10. The other factors that made the tax rate different from last year is articles and the fact that we had a \$159,000 deficit. Karen Horn and Jonathan Siegel suggested this explanation be posted publicly. Cheryl will post to Front Porch form.

Catrina Brackett 6 month review: Given by Cheryl a few weeks early do to conflicts in October. Cheryl spoke about how she has been doing an excellent job. She is usually on time if not early and always available. She is always willing and wanting to learn new things and is currently working on a grant for the Library solo. Cheryl request a pay raise to \$15.69 at her 6 month mark for October 17th. Cheryl also stated that her and Catrina are looking into accounting classes and that having accounting training will better a valuable employee, who will be a huge benefit to the town. The board will decide on helping pay for this education after more research into classes is done. Tom B asked if it was normal practice to pay for training of a part time employee. Tom M suggested when it comes time to decide on education Tom B could ask for a commitment after completion if he felt it necessary.

Motion: Tom B made a motion to accept Cheryl's evaluation and pay raise to 415.69 to start October 17, 2017 and to look into education. Tom M seconded the motion. All Agreed.

Don LaRoca: Don was present by Jason's request to discuss with the board investment opportunities. The board discussed several different options and companies. Jason felt it necessary to present the town with option before making any decisions. The goal was set at making \$44,000 in income per year with investments. Jason, John and Don would meet and put together options for the town to see at a public forum.

Stephan Pratt: Stephan was present to discuss winter work oppertunies with the town. Stephan thanked the board for hiring him for last summer and letting him use the trucks to train for his CDL

which he has obtained. Last year Stephan worked on an on call basis and was looking for more of a commitment this winter. Tom m said he had spoken to Martin who agreed Stephan is a great asset to the road crew. Tom m and Martin will get together with martin and figure out the best use of Stephan as a part time employee. Chery spoke to Stephan about the town hall as he is the custodian. Cheryl asked Stephan make sure the back door was winterized soon, also to work with Catrina to inventory the town hall. Stephan also mentioned that they have had no flooding issues since the last repair to the foundation and that Griffin and Griffin had done a great job.

September 5, 2017 Minutes: John made a motion to accept the minutes. Rae seconded the motion. All agreed.

American rock Salt: Rae asked Cheryl if she had received numbers from them yet this year. Cheryl will contact.

Town hall: A request use of the town hall was received from Taylor Margison, Intergraded Canine, LLC to hold a dog obedience class. Right now she is teaching at the Fayston town hall and Central Vermont Human Society. It would be an one hour class for six weeks. She is fully insured and certified by through the CATCH dog trainer program. The board discussed how to handle the added risk of damaged associated with animals on the hard wood floor. The board approved her request with the condition that after each session Stephan Pratt finds no damage on the wood flooring and it is left clean. Each session there will be \$125 rental fee; and a one-time deposit for \$250 for all six weeks of training. The deposit will be returned to her at the end of the sixth training provided we find no damage.

Trail 41: A purposed plan was available for review by American Consulting Engineers & Surveyors, Inc. The Selectboard will review.

Dog Complaint: Shane grace was present to speak with The Saffrans about a complaint they made again Jeff Rothenburg dog running out into the road when they were walking buy and intimidating their dogs. Shane apologized about not taking care of the problem sooner. A neighbor of the Saffrans, John Burns was also present to let the Saffrans know their dogs had been on his property and attacked his dog twice. Shane will send a written warning to Mr. Rothenburg. Shane is also going to work with Catrina on updating the dog ordnance.

Open Mic: Mr Saffarn also talked about how great Open Mic on Friday night at the town hall from 7pm-10pm was going.

Class 4 road maintenance- the Board discussed putting money aside in the budget for class 4 roads. Also redrafting the policy. This discussion will also be part of a future public forum.

Town Office: Tom M would like the Selectboard to think about drafting a policy for public use of the meeting room at the town office.

Public Forum: A public forum will be held Monday October 23,2017 at the Town hall. Time TBD concerning Town Investments and Class 4 road policy/maintenance.

Homestead Fee: Katelyn Liptak wrote a letter to the Selectboard ask for them to wave the \$336.31 late fee for filing her homestead declaration late as she thought she had done it on time.

Scenic Roads: Jason asked if there was any update on scenic roads. Tom Martin said that he had talked to Jonathan Siegel, who said that the scenic roads were inadvertently left out of the Town Plan. He said that the State had been contacted with the information on Moretown's designated scenic roads.

MOTION: Tom B made a motion to wave the \$336.61 Homestead late fee for Katelyn liptak. John seconded the motion. All agreed.

WARRENTS: PR 17043 e2546-e2557 AP17044 19032-19061

MOTION: Tom B made a motion to adjourn. Jason Seconded the motion. All Agreed.

Meeting Adjourned 8:30pm