

Town of Moretown  
Selectboard Minutes  
08/20/18

**Board Members present:** Rae Washburn, John Hoogenboom, Callie Streeter, Jason Aronowitz and Tom Martin

**Guest Present:** Catrina Brackett, Cheryl Brown, Katie Martin (Valley Reporter), John Weir (JB), Ellie Hilferty, Denise Gabaree and Joyce Manchester (TAC)

**General Public Comment:** None at this time

**Town Administrator Report:**

1. Buska property sold in private sale. Delinquent tax 2013-2017 (\$8,538.32) and current taxes paid in full. \$1270 in attorney fees (for tax sale) not paid at sale. New owner paid today 8/20.
2. ROAD GRANTS: Class 4 Road Erosion Grants & Grants in Aid - \$ total so far 2018:  
(Site visit 8/23/18 at 6-8 pm.)  
Lynch Hill - \$7,143  
Jones Brook Road - \$12,000  
In progress: - Mountain Road & Common Road later this year.
3. HUUSD – Reimbursed the town \$2,105 for mowing May – July, 2018.
4. PACIF Equipment grant - \$5,000 for 2 rear cameras for dump trucks, and 4 new uniforms for the fire department.
5. HUUSD owes Town \$4,180 for 50% of tennis court reconditioning.
6. Mark Glavin – of Gallagher Acres asked for the procedure for the town to “take over” maintenance of a road. AOT must approve road before it becomes class 3. B-76 Standards and Highway Handbook from Dick Hosking. Dick said it will be very expensive to bring this road up to class 3 standards. The Town is only mandated to consider the proposal, not take it over. It’s a long process with hearing. The Selectboard would like a written response from Martin with his opinion of the road crew taking it over.
7. Lover’s Lane emergency funding – Cheryl contacted Dick Hoskings about additional funds for entire repair, which was approved. Dick noted DuBois has done a fine job replacing the road so far.
8. Old Route 100 re-seeding. The road crew was asked by land owner Marylou Duke and her farm manager to use a different mix on the ditches near the land because winter rye can be toxic to horses. She gave Martin 3 bags and requested the Town pay her back for what we would have spent on the mix. Which Martin stated is \$75/per bag. Cheryl will verify amount with Martin.
9. An errors and omissions form was signed off on by the Selectboard last meeting for Rudy L Polwin & Jordan Gonda for a change of value from \$0 to \$100,000. Their tax bill was only billed at \$47,000 assessment. Ask listers later in the meeting to explain.
10. At the last meeting Jason requested quotes from professionals to provide a comparative cost to do the lister duties. A quote will be available next meeting.

**Reports and Communications:** Stormwater Master Plan meeting this Thursday at 1pm @ the Town Office, to prioritize the remaining projects. There is also a meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm at the bottom of Lynch Hill to discuss the work that has been done through the Grants in Aid.

Tom was asked if the Town had a policy on squatters and 4 wheelers on town roads. There is no policy on squatters, it is up to the land owners. 4-wheelers are allowed on class 4 roads only.

Joyce Manchester (TAC)- She was present to talk about a few issues brought to her by the Selectboard concerning speeding on RT2 by Gallagher Acers and on Rt 100B by the old Maynards snack bar. Suggestions she had were to inform the State Police of the issue so they can patrol more. Radar signs. Looking up crash data or a traffic counter. Cheryl has spoken to Dick Hoskins at VTRANS about signage and they are going to conduct a traffic study.

Joyce also spoke about things that have been happening at TAC. AOT came in a spoke to them about a long-range plan to meet Vermont's goal of 90% renewable energy by 2050. GMT is trying to start a program of volunteer drivers for ADA customers that would be free of charge and door to door. The Emerald Ash Bore was discussed and its impact to Vermont ash trees.

A letter from Peter Langella was received resigning his position o the HUUSD board.

**Lister Business:** The listers were present to give a tax map update to the Selectboard as well as discuss the overages in their budget. Concerning the budget Mike spoke about trying to estimate the number of hours of data entry this project would have taken considering it has never been done before. They also had 7 full days of grievance hearing and 2 full days of BCA hearings, as a result of the new maps. The status of the tax maps is, they are complete as of 2016. Now they need to go though and update everything that has happened since then. Which will take place every year going forward. The board questioned if the Listers felt they had what it took to keep doing this kind of work in the future with all the new mandates. While the Listers are confident they can while working with NEMRC in the near future, it is hard to get new listers and it's a steep learning curve. The Board is seeking quotes from professionals to take over some of the listers duties, while still having the Listers as consultants. Mike spoke about an offer that CAI presented to the board in the past to put the measurements on the new maps, at a normal cost of \$4100 down to \$3000. Mike was unsure that was the correct cost. The tax maps are almost complete so a decision needs to be made. **MOTION:** Tom made a motion to have CAI do the measurements as long as they can bill us next year. John seconded the motion. **DISCUSSION:** Jason questioned if they couldn't get a better deal? Deborah spoke about the data not being available in the future if they don't do it now. **MOTION:** Jason made a motion to amend the motion to have CAI do the work but have Mike try to get the price down. No one seconded the motion. **DISCUSSION:** Tom and John believe that if CAI is willing to not bill us until next year and they have already dropped the price that it is a good deal. **MOTION:** Tom withdrew his motion, John withdrew his 2<sup>nd</sup>. **MOTION:** Tom made a motion to have CAI do the work putting the dimensions on the tax map at a price to not exceed \$3000 and to be billed next year. John seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Tom, John, Rae and Callie YES, Jason NO. **MOTION PASSED.**

The listers presented three more errors and omissions for Selectboard approval. One was the parcel Cheryl had brought to the boards attention earlier. It was a clerical error.

**Old Business:**

**Historical Society:** Rae Washburn, Ellie Hilferty and Denise Gabaree meet prior to the Selectboard meeting to discuss their concerns with the possible move of the Library to the Town Hall. Rae said they don't feel they have seen enough evidence that the space can be maintained as a meeting space with the Library there. They felt the Town would be better off to hire an events coordinator on commission to promote the space for rentals. Ellie pointed out the Library already uses the Town Hall for programs and thinks it should stay in that arrangement. She also thinks the Town will be spending much more for utilities compared to the Library building. The Selectboard assured them that nothing has been agreed upon. The Library is still doing the leg work to see if the move is a possibility. Jason suggested advertising for "pop-up stores" to use the space. Tom suggested the Historical Society to take the Library survey and wait for the results.

**JB & Catrina-** JB requested executive session and requested Cheryl and Catrina be present. **MOTION:** Tom made a motion at 7:20 to go into executive session for contracts, labor relations agreement with employees, where by premature general public knowledge would clearly place the Town or persons involved at a substantial disadvantage. John seconded the motion. All agreed. **MOTION:** Tom made a motion to end executive session at 7:50. John seconded the motion. All agreed. **ACTION:** An hour will be scheduled during the next meeting on September 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss the positions of Town Administrator, Assistant Town Administrator and Zoning Administrator.

Sidewalk update: The new owner of the house where an easement is needed for a pipe replacement (DiCarlo land) has contacted the Town Office. Once an easement is complete the project should be ready to go to bid. John has the contract information so he and Pat Travers can meet the new owner.

**New Business:**

**Rec Field:** Catrina asked the Selectboard if they had a policy for use of the rec fields. They do not. Cheryl also let the board know she was made aware that Stefan has been hitting the fence when mowing. She let Martin know.

**Minutes from 8/6/18: MOTION:** John made a motion to approve the minutes from 8/6/18. Rae Seconded. All agreed.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held **Tuesday, 9/4/18.**

**Warrants:** PR18040- ck19793, e2834-e2845; AP18041, ck19794-ck19827

**Documents approved:**

**Errors and Omissions to the grand list** - Parcel ID: 10-002.001 Rudy L. Polwin & Jordan Gonda, (corrected prior E&O) change of value to \$47,900, Reason: Land Value determined by PVR due to land in 2 towns.

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Parcel ID: 02-002.000 Noyes Properties LLC, change value to \$314,200, Reason: Deducted acreage per sale.

Parcel ID: 09-006.000 Tim and Mary Larsen, change of value from \$546,700 to \$551,400, Reason: Addition of acreage from inactive parcel.

**Motion to Adjourn: Tom made a motion to adjourn at 8:15pm. Rae seconded. All agreed.**