

Town of Moretown  
Selectboard Minutes  
10/01/18

**Board Members present:** Jason Aronowitz, Rae Washburn, and Tom Martin

**Board Members not present:** John Hoogenboom and Callie Streeter,

**Guest Present:** Catrina Brackett, Cheryl Brown, Linda Hazard, Dara Torre, Jay Pilliod, Cory Stephenson, Karen Sharpwolf, Denis Gabaree, Jennifer Hill and Elle Hilferty.

**General Public Comment:** Linda Hazard was present to introduce herself. She was appointed to the Moretown HUUSD School Board rep last week. She spoke to the board about her history as a Moretown resident and her educational experience. She stated she would like to come in on a regular basis, depending on what's happening. Cheryl asked Linda for her input about the 4 options for Middle School. Linda sat in on the rest of the meeting she was appointed to and said that its really down to plan 3 and 4. She believes the School Board needs to take a step back and do more investigation into what is best for the community, more long-term planning. Jason asked if a savings per option was available. Linda doesn't believe there is but will look into it and get back to the Selectboard. The Selectboard welcomed and congratulated Linda.

**TA Report 10/1/18**

1. Need to think about the possibility of changing attorney for the Montgomery Timber appeal? Shems \$150 hr. / Gillies \$140 hr. Court date on 10/8/18 at 10 am for Status Conference. The Board will discuss this after the status conference.
2. Tax map index and revisions done by CAI? \$500 year. The Listers have stated they will not be using CAI to update the index of the tax maps. Cheryl talked about how important the index being correct was to anyone doing title work. The Board wants CAI to update the index and spoke about Cherilyn making up the cost with fees for title search etc. The Listers also stated they don't plan to submit any Errors and Omissions related to changes to the grand list related to grievances and BCA hearings. Revised tax bills need to be sent to these property owners as well. Tom stated all Errors and Omissions need to be done and submitted to the Selectboard. Cheryl will relay this information to the listers.
3. LHMP bids due and to be opened on 10/15/18.
4. Town Hall mold repairs should be done by 11/1. Are we charging for rentals of the town hall as of 1/1/19? Yes, the Selectboard agrees we will start charging for rental again. The exterior painting was also discussed. Catrina thinks the rear of the building should be checked by the Selectboard to asses if it was done correctly. The painter did say if he had time this summer he would paint the whole building but only did 2 sides that he was contracted for. The other two sides are to be completed next summer in 2019 for the remaining balance of \$5889.87 of the contract.

5. TA 65 submitted to VTrans for \$36,729 of a \$40,800 bill for final repairs and guardrails for Lover's Lane. The remaining balance of \$4,071.00 was the Towns share.

### **Reports and Communications:**

Cheryl spoke about the sidewalk project. Chris Hunt from the State of VT is working on the new ROW needed for the catch basins and changing it in the drawings. Cheryl will be setting up a meeting with Pat Travers and John Hoogenboom.

An email was received from Jane Dimotsis concerning the rentals of tables and chairs from the Town Hall. She feels the rates are very high and that paying taxes should provide some access or discount for rentals of Town property. Jason stated paying taxes has nothing to do with being able to rent from the Town.

A card was received from the PTO thanking the Town for allowing them to have a craft beer tent fundraiser at Morefest.

Cheryl relayed the information to the Board that she had to request the names of who had applied for the open HUUSD School Board position. She didn't receive them until the 17<sup>th</sup> even though the School Board had closed the applications on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Had the Board received the info earlier it would have given them a chance to invite the applicants in to meet them.

Pony Farm Road- Martin received an estimate for \$1690.00 installed. Jason questioned why the Town would be paying for a guardrail. Tom spoke about it being a safety issue and maybe should have been done before. Catrina will relay to Martin that the Town is will to pay for up to \$1000 for the guardrail and installation.

An announcement from VLCT was received making the Town aware they are looking into new health care options for Towns/Business under 100 employees.

An email was received from Rae-Ann LaCroix expressing her interest in the Auditor position. The Board would like to meet her at the next meeting.

**Energy Committee-** Dara Torre and Jay Pilliod, were present to talk about an opportunity the Town Energy Committee has to apply for funding through the CVRPC to update the current energy plan which is also part of the Town Plan. The PC has already approved the motion on the contingent the Selectboard does also. Jay would like to step down as energy chair, Dara would like to step down from the PC and take over as Energy Committee chair. She would also like to remain as the CVRPC represented for Moretown.

**MOTION:** Tom made a motion to accept Jays resignation as chair but to remain on the Energy Committee, Dara's resignation from the PC and appoint her as the Energy Committee chair as well as to remain the CVRPC representative for Moretown. Rae seconded the motion. All agreed. Dara hopes to revitalize the Energy Committee. **MOTION:** Tom made a motion to allow the Energy Committee to apply for the grant from CVRCP. Rae seconded the motion. All Agreed.

**Old Business:** WASI and NEMRC quote for lister assistance will be discussed at the next meeting since all Board members were not present.

**Library move to Town Hall:** Cory came in to talk to the Selectboard about taking a step back and focusing more on what the community is looking for and needs and how the Library can help. They brought a questioner to go over with the Board members.

Question #1: My goals for the Moretown Community are:

Tom- Health of the Community- physical/mental and financial.

Jason- Preserve the character of Moretown. He also spoke about the character being different between the new and old residents.

Rae- High quality of life, affordability and sense of community.

Cheryl- Resiliency, unity, health and happiness and neighbors helping neighbors.

A conversation was had about all the events and gatherings the community used to have and host and ways that we could get back there.

Question #2: The challenges we face in reaching these goals are:

Jason- No economic base, physically divided and flood threats.

Tom- Economics (small town). Resistance to change and lack of community involvement.

Cheryl- Just a change in times and how things are done.

Catrina- Generation gap. You see one group of residents at school functions another group at Town Meeting.

Question #3- How can the Library help reach those goals?

Jason- Contacting seniors to tell stories.

Cheryl- Hosting events, fairs, dances etc.

Tom- The Library can help revitalize the Town. Expand internet use though the valley. Use the Town Hall as more of a community center. Having someone to anchor the building.

Rae- Need to find a way for common ground amongst residents.

A further conversation was had about keeping the Town Hall a multipurpose building. Jason isn't sure how the Library would fit into that.

Karen and Cory spoke about the next step in compiling all the surveys and conversations they have had with different groups. They still have more meetings to go. Then coming up with a couple different visions/plans that can be discussed at Town Meeting.

**Financial Committee update:** The finance committee has extended an invitation to Cherilyn to join. **MOTION:** Jason made a motion to give Cherilyn the option to join the Finance Committee. Tom seconded the motion. All agreed.

**New Business:** None at this Time

**Next Meeting:** October 15th, 2018 @ 6pm

**Minutes: MOTION:** Rae made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 9/4/18 as written, 9/10/18 as written, and 9/17/18 with the following changes - Add in "Cheryl stated the candidates should have known to come to the Selectboard"- into the TA report. Add in "of all funds are" after \$250,000 in the Financial Committee update. As well as changing "NSB" to "Collateral in-house mortgages." 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jason. All agreed.

**Warrants:** PR 18047, e2868-e2879 and #19899. AP 18048, 19900-19932

**Documents approved:** Overload permit for Grizzly Mountain Trucking LLC. ROW Permit for Timbervest on Herring Brook Rd. But the permit will be held until Ray can do a sight visit.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Tom made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. Rae seconded. All agreed.