

Town of Moretown

Selectboard Minutes

10/15/18

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

**Guest Present:** Catrina Brackett, Cheryl Brown, Steven Reissing, Deborah Carroll, Peter Langella, Mike Woods, Katie Martin, JB Weir, RaeAnn Lacroix, Anne McClucky

**HUUSD Board Weights:** Peter Langella was present to speak to the board about how the weights of each town are calculated for voting on the School Board. Peter stated the original articles of agreement had the populations of Waitsfield and Waterbury incorrect. Which he believes to be a clerical error made by Chris Leopold of Wells and Leopold. The attorney used to draw up the paperwork. The Census calculates the population of each town but sometimes will also count just the “Village” of each town, which was the case for Waterbury and Waitsfield. The following chart is the original and current numbers:

Town	Board Members	Population	Individual Vote Weight	Total Vote Weight
Duxbury	2	1,337	4.6	9.2 pts.
Fayston	2	1,353	4.6	9.2 pts.
Moretown	2	1,658	5.6	11.2 pts.
Waitsfield	2	1,883	6.4	12.8 pts.
Warren	2	1,705	5.8	11.6 pts.
Waterbury	4	6,827	11.5	46.0 pts.
Total	14	14,763		100 pts.

Peter has verified the populations with Waitsfield and Waterbury’s Town Clerks. The following chart was calculated by Peter with those numbers:

Town	Members	Population	Individual Vote Weight	Total Vote Weight
Duxbury	2	1,337	5.2	10.4
Fayston	2	1,353	5.25	10.5
Moretown	2	1,658	6.45	12.9
Waitsfield	2	1,719	6.7	13.4
Warren	2	1,705	6.65	13.3
Waterbury	4	5,064	9.875	39.5
	<b>14</b>	<b>12,836</b>		<b>100</b>

Peter was at the last HUUSD meeting and brought this to the School Boards attention. He called for a vote with the current weights to suspend future voting for time to research this. Peter stated he received no reaction from the board as a whole. He would like the Selectboard to reach out to the HUUSD. Tom spoke about this be a very troubling situation and would like the Town attorney Ron Shems to write a letter to the HUUSD Board and Bridget Nease. **MOTION:** Tom made a motion for Ron Shems to draft a letter to the HUUSD Board and Bridget Nease concerning the incorrect voting weights. John seconded the motion. **DISCUSSION;** Jason

suggested we should let the other towns in the district know we are writing the letter. Linda Hazard and Gabe Gillman will be contacted. **All Agreed.**

Peter also spoke about the discussion of closing schools in the Valley is back on the table. At the last meeting the HUUSD Board voted down options for renovating either Middle School and Bridget stated they need to go back and look at every "asset" the district has; i.e. its school buildings. Peter spoke about previous research he has done and in a town like Moretown no elementary school would decimate our town, with falling property taxes, no new families moving in etc. He also spoke about the way the HUUSD Board dismissed the letter of recommendation for Kristen to be the representative taking Peters seat on the Board. Cheryl questioned if the incorrect weights for voting were presented to the voters during the merger. Peter confirmed that they were.

**General Public Comment:** Mike Woods was present to discuss a conversation from the last Selectboard meeting about how the Listers are using Errors & Omissions. He stated they are used to change the Grand List when some one has gone through the grievance or BCA process and shown evidence. They are not used when someone has come forward with additional evidence to correct the Tax Map and has not gone through the grievance or BCA process. Those will be corrected next year on the Grand List.

Deborah Carroll the new owner of the DeCarlo house in the Village, was present to discuss the issue she is having with a culvert undermining her property. The catch basin and sidewalk project were discussed as this culvert would be apart of it. Cheryl has spoken to the State who wants to go to bid on that project this winter. Rae and Martin will check the property and see what the Town can do in the meantime to shore it up before winter.

### **TA Report 10/15/18**

1. Over all 2018 budget standings to date – **(\$6,385.85)** deficit
2. Montgomery Timber appeal Gillies filed to court on 10/11/18, requesting information Montgomery intends to present at the trial. Tom will reach out to Paul Gilles to verify the correct location of Town Trail #17 is being referenced.
3. Finance Committee. Cherilyn agreed to be appointed to FC.
4. 2019 health insurance. Its time to renew Health Insurance for the full time Town employees. Chery asked the Board if they plan to stay even with what the Town contributed last year. VLCT members with fewer than 100 employees now have the option for getting insurance though Business Resource Services (BRS) and Vermont Association of Chamber Executives (VACE) at prices lower then BCBS plans. The Board decided to make the same contribution to 2019 insurance as last year.

**Reports and Communications:** Rae checked Herring Brook Rd after receiving a road maintenance permit request from Timbervest. The water bars they put in this summer are good quality but he wants relayed to them that they need to fix the previous ones they installed.

John spoke about attending a meeting for Tree Wardens regarding the health of trees in the ROW. He also attended a Vermont Clean Water Network meeting and will be relaying information to the Central Vermont water network about them being very fragmented and not focusing on all Vermont waterways. Rae asked John if he also managed the trees on Town Land. Cheryl stated we have a forestry plan she can look at.

An email was received from Greg Nagurney requesting to be reappointed back to the DRB.

**MOTION:** John made a motion to reappoint Greg. Jason seconded. **All agreed.**

**Bulletin Boards-** Catrina stated she posted on all the boards for 3 weeks that they would be removed and received no communications. She reported the one on Jones Brook is in the worst shape and should be taken down and trashed. The one on Moretown Mountain Road should be taken down and repurposed to go in front of the Town Office. She volunteered to paint and clean it if the road crew can bring it to the Town Hall. The one on Cobb Hill is in good shape and she will paint it in the spring. Cobb Hill needs to stay up because it is an official posting place assigned by the Selectboard. The Board agreed.

**Charles Abare-** Cheryl received a call from Charles today stating his property pin was missing after the road crew was removing a tree on the corner of Cook Rd and Hog Hollow. Will be relayed to Martin.

**Jeff Ladue -** Contacted John about receiving a load of stone on Kelley Brook Trail. The answer was no.

**Bridge #21-** A letter was received from the State of Vermont AOT with results of a bridge inspection. Based on their findings it was recommended that the abutment #2 and the bridge rail along the downstream side need to be repaired. Martin will contact bridge contactors to assess the work to be done.

**Auditor Position-** RaeAnn Lacroix had sent an email with interest in the open Auditor position. She was present to meet the Selectboard. RaeAnn has lived in Moretown since 2011 with her husband and two children that attend Moretown Elementary. She has her Masters in education and currently substitutes at the Moretown Elementary School. **MOTION:** Tom made a motion to appoint RaeAnn to the Auditor position. Callie seconded. All agreed.

**New Librarian-** The new part-time Librarian was present to introduce herself to the Board. Ann McClucky is a Roxbury resident who also works at the Red Hen Bakery.

#### **Old Business:**

**WASI-** Catrina requested executive session to discuss contract negotiations with WASI where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the Town and/or WASI at a substantial disadvantage. **MOTION:** Tom made that motion, John seconded, all agreed and the Board entered into Executive Session at 6:50pm. **MOTION:** John made a motion at 7:02 to end Executive Session, seconded by Rae, all agreed. **NO action taken.** Catrina had done research concerning ambulance service in Moretown. The only service we currently pay for is Montpelier who has paid professional employees. John will email WASI and discuss this year's payment request before he meets with them again on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**NEMRC-** The new versus old contact was discussed. A copy was given to Mike Woods. He and Deborah are scheduled to attend the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to discuss.

**Montgomery Timber appeal-** Callie attending the hearing on the 8<sup>th</sup>. She spoke about the judge ordering the discovery process to continue so all the facts were very clear.

**Town Administrators Position-** The Board has been working on a job description for Town Admin, Assistant Town Admin and Zoning Admin. JB and Catrina presented a combination of the jobs that included Cheryl staying part time after retirement to be the grants administrator. The Board will set aside 45 minutes in Executive Session at the next meeting to come to a decision on moving forward with the positions.

**Finance Committee: MOTION:** Tom made a motion to appoint Cherilyn Brown to the Finance Committee. Jason seconded the motion. All agreed.

**New Business:**

**LHMP Bids-** Only one was received from CVRPC for a total of \$9951. **MOTION:** Tom made a motion to accept CVRPC bid for \$9551. John seconded the motion. All agreed.

**Budget** work was started on the **2019 budget**. Jason requested when departments came in to speak about budgets they should be prepared to discuss capital needs also.

**Next Meeting:** November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018. 6pm at the Town Office.

**Minutes:** Rae made a motion to approve the minutes from 10/1/18. John seconded the motion. All agreed.

**Warrants:** PR: 18049; e2880-e2890, 18050 VOIDED, AP: 18051, 19933-19980.

**Documents approved:** Following Errors & Omissions

The Board of Listers requests approval to make the following changes to the 2018 Grand List under errors and omissions, Title 32, Section 4261:

**Parcel ID: 03-021.000**  
Owner's Name: Grace Lee  
Change the value to \$97,500  
Reason: Per BCA ruling

**Parcel ID: 10-017.000**  
Owner's Name: William & Susan Zekas  
Change value to \$263,900  
Reason: Grieved and supplied additional information after Grand List was lodged.

**Parcel ID: 01-000.000**  
Owners' name: State of Vermont  
Change the value to \$0  
Reason: "Value Exempt" for state owned property

**Blodgett Trail/Trail #17:** Notice of Hearing Dated October 15, 2018 was signed by the Board regarding the layout of a new trail and discontinuance of the old trail. A new hearing for the same purpose is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 7pm at the Moretown Town Office.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Tom made a motion to adjourn at 8:22pm. Rae seconded, all agreed.