

Town of Moretown Select Board Meeting
VT Route 100B
Moretown Village, Vermont
December 19, 2016

Board members present:	Cherilyn Brown
John Hoogenboom, acting chair	Steve Smith
Aaron Aronowitz	Martin Cameron
Rae Washburn	Raymond Munn
Michelle Baird	Elizabeth Burt
Mimi Clark, acting secretary	Sophie Raphael

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 by John Hoogenboom. The discussion went immediately to developing a Plan A and a Plan B for borrowing the funds needed to finish out the year ending 12/31/2016, from a combination of funds including the Capital Reserve Fund (CRF), the Northfield Savings Bank (NSB), or the Merchants Bank. There was consensus that a legal opinion is needed before the best plan can be decided. A town vote would be necessary for Plan A only which involves borrowing from the CRF. At this point, John made a motion that we, if NSB will allow, borrow an additional 40,000 for 1 year, then borrow 160,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund for 2 years (Plan A); if not approved by NSB and if we get favorable legal opinion to borrow 200,000 from the CRF we will do so with a repayment plan of 2 years at 2.2 % interest.

More discussion ensued including having an article at town meeting and planning for how to account for the borrowed funds in the deficit accurately. Michelle underlined, for future reference that in August, the board needs to account for money due in December. While Plan A has a definite repayment schedule there is some flexibility in whether or not to spread it over one or two years. John said that as it stands, it will all be in the 2017 tax year and he felt that it would be "too big a bump" in the tax rate. After more discussion, the board agreed that time periods of two years for both Plans A and B were in order.

John moved to direct Cherilyn to contact the NSB regarding the loan of 40,000. A vote was taken and the Ayes had it. Motion was carried and approved.

Raymond Munn was the next speaker. His concern is over accidents occurring on Route 100B because of a possible favoring by the State Highway crews of sanding Route 100. Martin Cameron agreed that in his opinion 100B has been classified as a secondary corridor. Jason suggested calling Adam Greshin, the state representative. The board also agreed that Adam Greshin, the State representative should be called. John agreed to call Adam. Ron Shems is also to be called for this matter and in response to an email and letter from a party by the name of Tom Cheney who slid off his motorcycle on a dirt road that had been freshly graded on June 21, 2016. His attorney is Andrew B. Delaney. His main intent, according to Martin was to give him a head's up as to the danger of the road condition. Cherilyn referring to a Lover's Lane incident, said that the judge ruled that municipalities are immune; they have sovereign immunity. John excused himself from this matter as Martin is a client of his. Rae moved to pass the matter to Ron Shems. Michelle seconded. The Ayes had it, John abstaining. Martin requested to be told of Ron Shems's notification as soon as possible.

Martin presented his report of the road budget at which point Michelle noted that there was less than a 2,000.00 difference from last year. He will be asking for a new truck article this year to replace a ten year old truck. The reliability of this truck is no longer certain especially in a year when we are having so many morning commuter storms. The plow actually tweaked off the truck and is being repaired. He mentioned river road resurfacing as an article but this decision is to be made by the board. There was discussion of coming up with a plan to include all the 32 miles of Moretown roads into a revolving plan to be resurfaced to be included in the operating budget.

The Municipal/School parking lot is user friendly but not maintenance friendly according to Martin. Discussion centered on the breakdown of payment for maintenance services to be split 50/50 with the school; grants are pending that involve the lot as a Park and Ride, as it was initially defined. Discussion continued about grants available to share equipment with neighboring towns, but the logistics were deemed to be a nightmare. A successful solution exists between Duxbury and Jericho.

Elizabeth Burt presented her budget requests from the library which prompted discussion over who owns the library? Raymond Munn wondered with the passing of Holly Ward, could it now belong to the town? The board answered that the building belongs to the trustees; the fire department is in the same situation. It would go back to the Wards if not used as the fire department. Jason wondered if there are any grants out there to purchase the building and Cherilyn agreed to check on this matter.

Steve Smith, the fire chief mentioned the grant he has applied for with the American Firefighters of America that was submitted on November 16th. His hope is that the grant will decrease his budget significantly. If awarded, the town will pay 25% match.

Jason asked about payment to Waterbury for fire service to Waterbury and the landfill on Route 2 for example. Steve said if anything goes on at the landfill, they will be first on the scene and we will follow. The main item of Steve's concern is a "new for us" tanker. "I say it every year and every year it becomes more necessary". The existing one went out three times the previous week to structure fires in Middlesex, Waitsfield and Waterbury. It is 30 years old; a 1986 model and has a capacity of 1,500 gallons. The town really needs a 2,000 gallon tanker. He is hoping to find one in as good condition as the fire truck he recently found and purchased for the town and to pay for it with grant money. If the money is not awarded for the tanker he will include an article at town meeting. Discussion over sharing was once again discouraged because of the logistical difficulties and the uncertainties. Michelle mentioned that in her opinion it was the ratio of population size to how much the town was asking was the reason we were declined before. Those numbers can be refigured and resubmitted.

At 8:05, John moved to go into executive session. Michelle seconded. Rae motioned out at 8:19. John seconded.

Jason mentioned a letter from Jim Boylan regarding the Mad River Park. Michelle asked that the minutes reflect that if the board voted to contribute to purchase of the park, that it would be put to the voters first.

John reported that he went to a Bridge to River conference sponsored by the Friends of the Mad River: Quality or Resilience. It was helpful in preparation for the 1/17/2017 Subdivision Meeting.

Rae brought up the Memorandum of Understanding draft regarding the parking lot. The school board is proposing that town and school split maintenance excluding sidewalks, but including playing fields. An engineered plan will probably not happen immediately. There is a surplus left from grants for the town clerk's office; maybe in Spring it would be worth the while to have some engineering done. Jason suggested that a base layer be put in place with that money. John said the school will pay the town, 50/50 split. Jason said functionally, the usage is more for the school than the town. John- Since it's the town's property, it's okay. Raymond Munn added that the Park and Ride grant might be available. In other years, the parking lot plowing expenses were claimed by 3 budgets. He said it is not our parking lot alone, it's also a State Park and Ride.

Michelle fielded a question concerning the surplus instead of a deficit in the budget. It is not a true reflection of town money that is being moved from one account to another. It is not considered a liability. In hindsight, the board discussed and agreed that the 160,000 loan from the CRF should have been put in the budget. Jason suggested that the board set up a spreadsheet template with a spot built in to include anything the boards chooses to be included in "to pay back" - a template with loan repayments, internal loans, and delinquent tax payments.

At 9:00, the board sought to approve the minutes from 12/5/2016. Rae expressed concern that the work assigned to Joe Gabaree was not clearly stated and to prevent any misunderstanding, they should be changed to reflect that only the clapboards at the rear entrance of the building were being replaced by him, not the whole building. As corrected, the motion was made by Rae to accept the minutes and seconded by Michelle. John motioned in favor to accept, the Ayes had it. Jason wondered about borrowing from the CRF every year for tax anticipation.

Rae motioned to adjourn at 9:13. John seconded.