

**Town of Moretown  
Selectboard Minutes  
6/17/2019**

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

**Board Members not present:** Rae Washburn

**Guest present:** Catrina Brackett, Sasha Elwell-Badore, Cheryl Brown, Peter Langella, Matt Henchen, Laura Schaller, Kristen Rodgers and Ron Shems.

**Meeting was called to order** at 6:00 pm by Tom.

**Public comment:** Kristen, Laura, Matt and Gabe were all present to discuss the options put forth by the HUUSD for redesign. Peter spoke how the Board moving at lightning speed to go from 27 models down to 3. The options are as follows-

- 1- All 5-8 to Crossett, prek-4 at Warren, Thatcher and Waitsfield. Moretown being repurposed to pre-k mecca and the central office, Fayston closed,
- 2- All 5-8 to Crossett, Prek-4 at Thatcher and 3 valley schools. One school closed.
- 3- All 7-8 to Crossett, 5-6 Waterbury/Duxbury 4-6 Crossett, prek-6 Waitsfield, Warren, Moretown. Fayston closes.

Peter spoke about these choices being made with no accrual data except what the Superintendent and her team has give the School Board. Peter also quotes a study from the Ruel School done in the 1980s-2010 with reports coming out in 2011. Longer commutes lead to less involvement with extracurricular activities. Closed schools end up lowering the population, per capita income and increases public assistance. Peter also spoke about a study done in Denmark finding school consolidation leads to academic declines. Peter also spoke of a legal question he was concerned with. The school administration has stated this redesign decision would be tied to a bond for Harwood being voted on in 2020, yet they can not legally redesign/close schools before 2021. Something he is looking in to.

Kristen wanted to make her position clear to the Selectboard that she is 100% in in favor of moving 5-6 out of the valley. The only option that is left that she voted yes on option 3 listed

above. She also feels the whole process has gone way too fast. Although there is no clear goal stated she believes the administrative team's goal is to save taxpayers money and get people to vote yes on the Harwood bond. She quoted on School Board member as saying, "We have to show taxpayers savings, it's not about what's best for the kids." Kristen spoke about none of the options addressing the problems in Waterbury including 50+ kids not having the opportunity to attend PreK at Thatcher because there isn't room. Kristen has a meeting scheduled with the School Board co-chair for Tuesday to discuss her concerns.

Everyone spoke about the hard facts that Moretown is growing (a finding confirmed by an outside firm hired by the administrative team). The Board thanked the guest for coming to the meeting and asked Kristen to stand up to the administrative team at future meetings and remember that the Superintendent works for them not the other way around. The Selectboard intends to draft a letter to the School Board.

**Reports and Communications:** A letter was received late in the day from the Watershed committee, Sasha will look into it.

An invitation for the Town to send a participant to the Vermont Leadership Summit at VTC was received. Sasha will post to FPF for interested community members.

Callie spoke about a complaint she received from Ben Abare concerning an MFD member wearing an MFD t-shirt while not behaving as he should, she passed the info to Stefan.

John spoke with Michelle Beard about creating a management plan for Town owned land. She and the rest of the recreation committee will start working on it.

Tom spoke about the great work being done by the painter at the Town Hall, everyone agreed it looked great. He needs more paint which Tom will take care of.

Cheryl gave the Board an up to date financial report of the sidewalk/catch basin grant. Everything has been reconciled and it is ready for Cheryl to take over.

Tonight, is Cheryl's last Selectboard Meeting the Board thanked her for being such a tremendous Town asset. Stating she always goes above and beyond, and the Town is very fortunate to have had her. Tom thanked her for helping him both personally and professionally over the years. John thanked her for all the support she has given.

Personnel Policy Revision- All revision done were at the suggestion of VLCT legal team to be more inline with new polices, such as drug testing and family leave. Jason conveyed edits that need to happen- pg. 19 last sentences should have an ' in Town. Pg. 5 should have a d at the

end of issue. Pg. 4 spoke about absolute proabortion of controlled substances but was contradicted on pg. 5. The explanation of controlled substances prescribed by doctors will be copied onto page 4. MOTION: Jason made a motion to accept the revisions as accepted. Callie seconded. Further discussion: John corrected the math errors in the benefits chart concerning insurance. Callie would like to see employees allowed to carry over vacation time. The Board agreed on 3 days being carried into the next year for employees of 2 years of employment or more. VOTE: all agreed.

**Old Business: *Sidewalk/catch basin update-*** Chris Hunt is pushing though the bid documents so they will be out by the end of June, The Board will make the decision for which bid to choose.

**Executive Session: MOTION:** Tom made a motion at 7:24 to go into executive session for confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body where as premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at substantial disadvantage, seconded by Callie, all agreed. Catrina, Cheryl and Sasha were invited to stay. MOTION: Tom made a motion to end executive session at 7:39, seconded by John all agreed.

**Warrants:** 19030 a/p, 19031 p/r, 19032 a/p

**Items to sign:**

Two letters of intents for two separate grants  
New hire for the library  
CAI contract  
Two separate road permits

Resignation from Rube Scharges from the Planning Commission. MOTION: John made a motion to accept Rube's resignation, seconded by Callie, all agreed. Sasha will post on FPF thanking him as seeking a replacement.

Permission being asked from LOCO Sports for the 100 on 100 August 17

**Tom made a motion to adjourn** at 7:39pm, seconded by John, all in favor.