

**Town of Moretown**  
**Selectboard Minutes**  
**8/19/2019**

**Board Members Present:** John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn, Callie Streeter, Jason Aronowitz, (Tom Martin was not present).

**Guests Present:** Craig Oshkello, Katie Martin, Michelle Beard, Pat Travers, Rick & Patricia Haynes, Rachel Miltner and Sasha Elwell-Badore

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

**Public Comment:** Rick & Patricia Haynes came in to speak with the board about a discrepancy on a tree that needs to be removed for the power pole moving project that needs to be done before the sidewalk project is started. Over a year ago GMP communicated with the Haynes' that they would be covering the cost of the removal and replacement of this tree. Now they are communicating that it is going to be on the town. They are concerned due to the fact that their house is on the market and want something in place with the town, for potential home buyers. Rae voiced that the Haynes' shouldn't have to stress about this and the cost should either be on GMP or the town. The board wanted to speak with Pat Travers, (coming in later on in the meeting) regarding this, before making a motion.

Craig Oshkello was present to speak with the board about his letter of interest and resume he sent to the board for being appointed to the DRB. He moved to Moretown in August 2015, and likes it here. He spoke about his experience in NH government. John made a motion to accept Craig to the DRB, as an alternate. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

6:20 the board spoke with Michelle Beard, trying to "twist" her arm and get her to continue on the Rec Committee. She assured them that there is nothing negative going on, she just feels she can serve the community on a different committee, in other ways. She is enjoying being on the Local Service Committee, and wants more time for that. John reluctantly, made the motion to accept Michelle's letter of resignation. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

6:25 Pat Travers joined the meeting. Before getting started on the Local Project Engineer Committee, they addressed the Haynes' tree issue. John briefed Pat on what was going on with this and Pat said that in his experience, GMP doesn't replace trees. He also said that it could be put into the construction contract that it is replaced. All were in agreement that if GMP does not replace it, then the town should. They asked that Sasha contact Rick & Patricia for the email communications between them and GMP. Rae supported an agreement be made, for after the sidewalk project is done, the town replaces the tree. Jason made the motion, in regard to the tree GMP says needs to be moved / managed, the town will either prune or replace the tree (at

918 Route 100B, currently owned by Rick & Patricia Haynes) in accordance with GMP original statements to the Haynes'. John seconded. All were in favor.

Pat came in to talk to the board about the Local Project Engineer Committee. The committee consists of Pat Travers, John Hoogenboom and Jason Aronowitz. There was discussion on the process of finding the right firm for the sidewalk and drainage project. This process has been narrowed down to three firms. Pat met with Chris Hunt and is waiting to hear back from him on the next step. The most qualified for the resident engineering project is Dan Hamlin in Essex Junction. RFQ (request for qualification) would be paid 8-15% of the value of the construction project. What they charge on a project like this, could be nearly \$50,000. If the amount comes in higher, there could be negotiation. Or you move onto the next firm, the second choice. The qualifications come first and then the sealed cost proposals are opened. At that point you can negotiate, if need be. Pat will get back with John and Jason as soon as Chris responds to him. Pat said that the drawings have come back on the sidewalk and drainage project. Once they are approved and the last easement is signed, the project will go out to bid. Pat said that he will get with Doug Henson to see where "we" are at on that.

Rae would like it noted again that there could be a possible conflict for him. So, he is going to recuse himself from decisions on the bidding, since the company that he works for could be potentially bidding the job.

Rachel Miltner came in to speak with the board about the "Lone Pine". Pat stayed since it has to do with the sidewalk. John said that he has Treeworks coming on Friday to assess the health of the tree. Rachel said that she has had large branches of the tree come down on her house. She is leaning towards the safety factor of whether it should come down or not. Doug Henson with Vtrans told John that it was his "call".

**Reports & Communications:** John read the email from John Riley saying that he recommended Erick Titrud be re-appointed to the DRB. His term was up in July. John made a motion to re-appoint Erick. Jason seconded. All were in favor.

John read an email from Duane Pierson about Chuck Burt being interested in joining the Rec Committee. John made the motion to appoint Chuck. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

The board read through the letter that Ron Shems was asked to compose for the schoolboard. Rae voiced that he thought it should be sent out as soon as possible, because it's a pretty important letter. Also, the fact that they will be meeting again soon, with school heading back into session. Jason made the motion for the letter to be sent out after the final draft is done and everyone had a chance to sign it. Callie seconded. All were in favor. Sasha will notify the board by email as soon it is ready.

Rae asked about the vacancy of the townhall custodian. Sasha reported that there has been no interest shown as of yet. There was little discussion on it. An idea was thrown out, that a

cleaning service be used. No decisions were made, except asking that someone in the office be a point of contact for events.

Approving the minutes from 8/05/2019, on page 2, Jason wanted a portion of a sentence taken out about the letter regarding Erick Titrud. The paragraph should read, "there was a letter of complaint about Erick Titrud, received from John Martin on Route 100B. John H feels that it is not a Selectboard issue. The board would like the letter forwarded to John Riley, the chairman of the DRB." John had questioned whether it was a personal issue or directly related to the DRB. Jason made the motion to accept the 8/05/2019 minutes as amended. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

The listers submitted **Errors & Omissions** to the board to review and approve. The changes were to parcel 01-045.000 for Michael McCarty, the value was corrected from \$0 to \$113,200. Parcel 01-045.001 for Carole Wheeler, the value was corrected from \$318,300 to \$218,600. There was some discussion as to what happened on these two parcels. Sasha told the board what she knew. It was a subdivision purchase and Michael McCarty kept part of what he owned, but it was all put into Carol Wheeler's name instead of being split. This was caught when she called the office wondering why she was being billed for all that land. John signed and approved as the chair.

**Warrants:** P/R # 190420 & A/P # 19043 were signed and approved.

John made the motion to adjourn at 7:29 pm. Callie seconded. All were in favor.