

**Town of Moretown
Selectboard Meeting
9/03/2019**

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

Guests Present: Elizabeth Burt, Emily Wood, Jamie Wimble, Laure Murphy, Ilse Sigmund, Elga Gemst, Susan Werntgen, Leslie Polubinski, Chris & Cory Stephenson, and Sasha Elwell-Badore

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

Pat Travers came in to speak with the board on a sidewalk update. He had the request for proposal complete to send out to Hamlin in Essex for the RFP. He advised that AOT D5 is giving push back on the culvert by the fire station and there is no final easement yet.

John H had an update on the "Lone Pine", the bottom line is that the tree needs to come down. Tree Work's estimate was \$3000.00, so the town's share will be \$300.00.

Pat informed the board that Chris Hunt put out the release for the funds for the work on the sidewalk, before he went on vacation. Rae wanted clarification that Pat was staying on, in addition to the RE (Resident Engineer). Pat confirmed that he will and that the RE will be answering to him. He will be sure that the RE and work is being done correctly. John made the motion for Pat to submit the proposal and be retained as project manager, per his contract. Jason seconded. All were in favor. Pat will send it out 9/04/2019 with the due back to him date of 9/25/2019. Once he has it back, he will meet with the committee on it. John wanted it noted that the committee does need to follow the open meeting law, so Pat needs to contact Sasha, so that it can be warned.

Public Comment: Leslie Polubinski was in support of the library moving to the top floor of the townhall. Wants a bigger, airy space for the library, something that brings the community together. Susan Werntgen is in support of a library community hub. She has concerns about the dangerous traffic, accessibility with the bathroom and more accommodating space. Tom understands the "rough" situation at the library and thanked Cory for putting up with it. Kristen Hagen (Howes Rd) said that she has been here since Polly Bentley and the parking has always been an issue. She actually had an incident that day, that was very un-safe. She supports the move to the townhall. Chris Stephenson voiced being disappointed in the time that has gone by, he thinks there is an urgency in making a decision now, at least for the winter months. There were two letters sent to the board in support of the move to the townhall, from Lisa Mason, Brian Mohr and Emily Johnson.

Library Trustees said that they were present to talk about the letter they had sent to the board. No one knew about it, because no one had received a letter. So, Emily Wood read it aloud to the board. The letter explained their concerns about obstacles and would like to temporarily

move the library Nov 1st – May 1st. The reasons were due to having to use the portable toilet in the snow & cold and safety in getting into the building. They would like to move the new books and the children's selection. Their idea was to either move to the meeting room of the town office or the top floor of the townhall. Elizabeth expressed concern with the paperwork required to employ their vendors. They were under the assumption that \$600 and under, the paperwork was not needed. She brought in copies of emails back and forth with the office, but they were from three years ago. Jason stated that a lot can change in three years. What is required in order to write a check to a vendor/someone is a W9, Certificate of Insurance or Non-Employee work agreement. These papers are required for workers compensation. A suggestion was tossed out that maybe there could be a simpler form for these cases, and perhaps Ron Shems could get involved. Sasha will be reaching out to him in regards to this. Tom needs the library to give the board more info on a plan for moving temporarily. What is it that the library needs, so each issue can be addressed with a solution. Cory said that it would be about 6,000 books (new / children's selection) to be moved. They have book cases about 6-7 feet tall and about 4 feet wide. She also mentioned that there are shorter book shelves upstairs at the library, she wasn't sure if they belong to the library or if they are the Historical Society's.

The question was tossed out about what the hours would be once this move was in place and they want to continue with them being the same. Rae asked about the town office being big enough and if so, why not use the downstairs of the townhall? Cory said that she has witnessed the water in the basement. So, that is why they do not want to use the downstairs. Cory pointed out that in public comment, all were in favor of being at the townhall. Tom wants a cost, to see what the numbers are going to be, along with more details so something can be decided. The board agrees that something needs to be done. The heat and wireless internet were concerns voiced, along with how much actual square footage would be needed. The space that is used will need to be able to accommodate the max number of people. Cory said that they have 8-10 patrons a day at the library.

Tom suggested to the library trustees that maybe one of them would be interested in doing the custodial work at the townhall. No one has showed interest in the position, so far. Since they would be using it, maybe something could be worked out on that end as well. So, he wanted them to think about that, as far as planning goes as well. The library has had an issue finding someone to clean there as well. (the board spoke with Cory, Elizabeth, Jamie & Chris on this)

New Business: None was discussed.

Old Business: John spoke regarding harvesting forest land. He said that he will be reaching out to the Recreation Committee.

Tom said he planned on calling Caitlin Hollister in the a.m. Wednesday, to give her a heads up on the letter that was going to be emailed to the Schoolboard. He asked that Sasha email it about noon time, after he had the chance to speak with her.

Finance Committee members had spoken about questions for the Fire Department, that came up at their last meeting. They would like to know the life expectancy of their uniforms. Also, equipment maintenance is in question. How does the Road Department keep track of what needs to be worked on? How is it kept up with? The thought in this questioning is the long-term

process and making the most of the life of the equipment. Tom spoke highly of the Road Department keeping up on the equipment.

The board asked that Dan Currier be reached out to regarding a tracking system for road work/labor. Sasha will send an email out to him.

In going down the list on the Agenda for old business, it was thought that the Planning Commission position was filled. But in talking about it, it was mixed up with the DRB, the Planning Commission position is still vacant.

Reports & Communications: Sasha let the board know that the communication between the office and road department is working really well. Martin is taking the time to explain things and making sure that we are on the same page. He spent some time going over the road crew logs, just that morning.

Sasha reported to the board that we have no delinquent taxes.

Rae brought up Catrina's pay and wanted to be sure that it was all resolved. Tom confirmed that it was all good, (there was confusion on what six months was).

Rae wants to get going and be involved with the library move. Suggested a special meeting for next Monday. Nothing was confirmed. Tom would like questions regarding this to be emailed to Sasha and then she can forward them onto him. He plans on getting with the library to look at this situation further, what is existing and what is needed. The board all agreed that the existing situation at the library is not a pleasant one and is also a safety issue. Concerns were voiced about this being temporary, everyone needs to be on the same page. This is going to only be a temporary move, it will not be permanent. It needs to be brought before the Town's people, for their input on this. Tom asked Rae about the water issues that have happened and wanted his input on that. Earlier in the summer rain went in through the door downstairs. Perhaps digging a little to make more of a step up or paving that area, would be options. The board feels that the basement could be a very cozy feeling space. They agree that there needs to be some work done. But there also needs to be some compromise. Tom wants/needs everyone's input and ideas on this. The historical value of the townhall needs to be kept in mind, and this process needs to have expectations in order for this to happen. The board does not see how the town office could work. It was discussed that the board would possibly meet at the townhall next.

Cherilyn's first big grant was awarded. All agreed that she did a great job in landing it. The town was granted \$412,800.00 for the west side of the sidewalk. It is a Federal grant, and the town will be responsible for 20% of the project. Kudos to Cherilyn! John wants to be sure that Cherilyn & Sasha's time is kept track of for inputting sidewalk (his term used). The board is excited about getting the second sidewalk done. They want to address the temporary right of ways needed for this, right off the bat. Perhaps have all the paperwork ready for the first meeting about this project. A lot has been learned on the first project, those lessons will hopefully make the next side easier.

There was question on the damage to the existing sidewalk on the corner of the Mountain Road and Miltner property. There was a witness that saw some paving equipment tear up the

cement, as they were going through and making the corner turn. A call was made to Northfield to see if they had a paving project on our end of town, their paving won't be started until the middle of September.

Ron Shems left some paperwork for Tom regarding Montgomery Timber. He is planning on going over it, and will then get with Sasha if there is anything pressing on it.

Approving minutes for 8/19/2019, one amendment was made to page one, going onto page two. "918 Route 100B, currently owned by Rick & Patricia Haynes), if GMP, does not, in accordance with GMP's original statements to the Haynes'. Rae made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Jason. All were in favor.

Warrants signed: #19044 P/R and #19045 A/P. Tom approved the Grant paperwork for the west side of the sidewalk project.

Tom made the motion to Adjourn at 7:36 p.m. Seconded by Jason.