

Town of Moretown
Selectboard Meeting
01/21/2020

Board Members Present: John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn, Jason Aronowitz, Tom Martin arrived at 6:03 pm, Callie Streeter arrived at 6:10 pm

Guests Present: Steve Magill, Sean Sullivan, Leah Pferfle, Dick Valentinetti, Chuck Burt, Elizabeth Burt, Karen Sharpwolf, Jamie Wimble, The Commons Association, Donna Stackhouse, Angelo Napolitano, John Schemeltzer, Don Wexler, Cory Stephenson, Hadley Laskowski (Valley Reporter), Ron Shems, Cherilyn Brown, Sasha Elwell-Badore

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

Public Comment: Steve Magill was present to have his opinion heard, that he feels town meeting should be kept at the town hall as it always has been.

Elizabeth Burt spoke to the board about a concern she has, in light of the bus incident that happened last week. She asked that they consider putting up more guardrails, so that perhaps this incident would not happen again, (not just that particular spot). She praised the road crew for the work they do and said that the sand truck had (and usually does) go through just before the bus. Jamie Wimble had the same concerns and inquired about it being sanded more frequently. Tom let everyone know that Martin had called the bus barn that morning informing them that the road crew was having a difficult time keeping up with the snow. Tom feels the town can address the guardrails and get with Martin on it, because it is worth looking into.

Karen Sharpwolf spoke about town meeting being in the town hall or at the school, she thinks that there are pros and cons to both. But wanted it clear that the library is more than willing to move their stuff and be accommodating. They want it known that they are welcoming town meeting being held at the town hall. There was brief discussion on this, Tom let everyone know that the BCA (Board of Civil Authority) voted on a stipulation that voting and the meeting be held in the same location.

Jamie asked about the agenda being on the website, she couldn't find it. Sasha let her know that JB was working on it and he was trying to get ahold of Chuck Burt for some assistance with it. JB said that there were some issues with Wordpress working.

Don Wexler voiced an opinion that times are changing and in keeping up, in time town meeting would be better to have at the school.

6:15 The Commons Associations, Dick Valentinetti, and Ron Shems were all present for updates and discussion on the situation that has been on going. It has been determined

that it is not fit for human habitation. The resident is getting help and has been gone from the premises for a few days.

6:45 John Malter & Jon Siegel with the Mad River Resource Management Alliance (MRRMA) were present to speak about what's been going on. They are getting busier and having more participation. With the food scrap changes coming in July 2020, they are doing workshops to educate people on what can and can't go into your trash, along with bins for purchase. Transfer stations will be required to accept food scraps. Tom commended John on doing such a great job, and the board is in favor of more support that they are in need of. Roxbury is pulling out of the alliance this year and joining where it is closer to them, which will impact their budget. Tom made a motion to re-appoint Jon Siegel to MRRMA. John seconded. All were in favor.

7:00 John Schemeltzer & Rae Washburn spoke a bit about the BCA meeting, they made a motion that the polling and town meeting should be in the same location. It is a strong opinion of the BCA that if they were separated, there would be less participation in either. It was discussed having town meeting at the school, accessibility and parking are more ideal. Cherilyn has spoken with Mandy at MES and it would be fine to have it there. There was also discussion on having it at the town hall, just as always, due to the heritage and tradition. Cory wanted it known that the library is willing to make this happen. Rae made the motion to keep town meeting at the town hall. Jason seconded. All were in favor. (Pre town meeting will be at the town hall as well.)

7:15 2020 Budget: Cherilyn was present to go over the rest of the budget with the board. The deficit was talked about, along with library raises and their budget, the computer at the fire department needs to be upgraded along with all the others. Tom would like Stefan to use Butternut to have the work done, that way security is equal across the board. The board would like Stefan to work with Cherilyn on the grant for the air packs the fire department is going to need at the end of 2020. The information from the webinar Cherilyn attended said that the competition is pretty intense and organizations hire teams to work on this grant. Discussion was had on the purchase of a new excavator, along with the wording for this on the warning for town meeting. A Security system was talked about, wondering if there was possibly a way that the MOU with the school could be involved with this and maybe combine a system with MES as well. It was decided that a chime/buzzer would be an inexpensive alternative until the sharing of a system could be worked on. Cherilyn wants to be sure that the security system is kept on the Selectboard's radar.

8:15 Cherilyn had received news that Brandon Abare's court hearing was Monday and the town will be paid the \$1000 for the insurance deductible, as his restitution, for the incident at the fire department. It was asked if Stefan has had any luck on the drug and alcohol policy yet.

BUDGET: Rae made the motion to accept the proposed budget of \$1,259,989.86. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Reports and Communications: Tom brought up the SB report for the town report, reminding all that it is due on Friday. He plans on working on it, if there is anyone that had items that they wanted to be sure were covered in it. The wording for the article on the excavator was discussed and Sasha will get with Ron on this. Sasha let the board know that Shane Grace is requesting his ACO check for the first two quarters early, Tom thought that it would be fine. Sasha also let the board know that Ron Shems hourly rate is going up to \$160 per hour. Jason moved to approve the minutes from 1/06/2020. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Old Business: there was some discussion on the school and what has been going on with the changes that have been voted on.

New Business: the guardrail question was briefly discussed, Callie had missed that part of the meeting, so she wanted to be sure that the board was aware of it. Tom talked briefly about an incident on Old Route 100 with the snow plow scaring horses inside the barn. He has spoken to the road crew about it and asked that they drive slower through there.

Warrants 20003 P/R and 20004 A/P were approved and signed.

Overloads were approved for Denton and Newport Sand & Gravel/Carroll Concrete

Warning for Town Meeting was approved and signed.

(and then discussed further, so one article needs to be changed after speaking with Ron Shems on the wording)

Adjourn: Tom made the motion to adjourn at 8:55 pm. Jason seconded. All were in favor.