

Town of Moretown
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Moretown Town Hall and via Phone Conference
07/20/2020

Board Members Present: Tom Martin, Rae Washburn (in person) Via phone, John Hoogenboom, Callie Streeter, Don Wexler

Guests Present: Bill Zekes, John Gallagher, Mandy Couturier, Ray Daigle, John Atkinson, Neal Nussbaum, Hadley Laskowski (Valley Reporter), MRV-TV, Sasha Elwell

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 pm by Tom

Public Comment: John Gallagher shared his opinion against mask wearing and not being affective. Bill Zekes said that he is in support of mask wearing.

Neal Nussbaum was on to talk about the school and Tom told him that he would be put on the next agenda to discuss the school.

6:15: Ray and Mandy were present to discuss the MOU, everyone was in agreement that it can stay the same. Tom brought up that there are discussions in the works about mowing less with putting a few paths in some fields, Ray and Mandy were fine with that. The MOU needs some dates corrected and then can it can be emailed over to the schoolboard. Ray D. asked about the construction items in the parking lot and wondering when the sidewalk project is expected to be done, he said that there will be teachers coming in next month. Rae W. advised that Dubois is planning on being done the beginning of August.

6:25: Bridge Closure meeting, Don was the only one that attended it. He said that they plan on working seven days a week. They will start prepping beginning August 1st and the bridge will be closing August 17th at 7:00 am and reopening October 16th. Brief discussion was had on concerns of big trucks going through town and then not being able to turn around. The same engineers are doing the paving project and that should be complete by August 31st.

6:30: John Atkinson was present to talk about the Recreation Committee project. They have selected a contractor and are anticipating construction to start in the middle of August and go through the middle of September. They have recognized that there could be some traffic issues and wondered who they should be contacting to coordinate things. The SB said to call on Sasha and she can contact the school for communications regarding what is going on. John said that the grant has been fully executed and work

can begin at any time. John H asked about insurance and John A said they are insured and will send the Certificate of Insurance to the office so that it is on file.

6:38: Face covering discussion was had, Tom asked for everyone's opinion. Concerns were reinforcing an order, so it was agreed that the wording would be a bit different than what the other towns have done. All agreed that there should be something in place saying the Moretown SB is asking for face covering to be used in public areas when social distancing is not an option. Another concern was with visitors from out-of-state, Moretown is the first stop coming from the interstate. The Moretown Selectboard wants to support the recommendation of the Vermont Department of Health. John made the motion to adopt a face covering policy. Don seconded. All were in favor. The exact wording will be typed up and approved before officially posting it.

7:15: Tom brought up setting the tax rate soon, perhaps a special meeting as soon as the state sets the school tax, which should be any time. It will be a virtual call to discuss and set the tax rate so that the tax bills can be sent out. Things are a bit tight right now, Tom asked that everyone take a look at the town report and see where budgets could be cut or even froze for a bit.

7:20: More bridge construction discussion was had briefly regarding signage and perhaps patrolling. Tom said that he will reach out to the Vermont State Police again, now that dates are more concrete. Rae brought up that the contractor can budget for signage, and pointed out that the same engineer is doing the paving as well as the bridge construction.

7:30: Tom brought up the excavator loan vs. using town funds, Cherilyn found that the cheapest interest rates are at the Community Bank, 1.9% for three (3) years or 2.05% for five (5) years. Tom made the motion to use Community Bank for a five (5) year loan at 2.05% interest. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

Reports & Communications:

John said that he is going to have a meeting with Neal Nussbaum for some discussion on the school.

John said that the sidewalk pouring is moving along towards Hurdle Road and then the stretch by Saint Patrick's Church will be the last stretch, 90 feet. Rae said that there is a grade difference in front of Eugene Grandfield's house and Pike will be laying the pavement thicker in that area. John also said that L & D was doing a survey on Howland Brown's property as soon as they can, for \$1110.00. The project is taking more easement than it was supposed to, so it is understandable that Howland has concerns. John said that Cheryl has been doing a great job covering for him while is recouping from his surgery.

Don voiced that the SB should think about doing a nice jester for the villagers impacted by all of the construction this summer.

It was brought up that the other side of the sidewalk is in bad shape because of the construction going on. Rae suggested that maybe Pike could do some filling in on spots with pavement, just to get through until that sidewalk project is able to be done. Rae has a contact with AOT and will get in touch with them.

Callie brought up concerns about wild parsnip that is growing along the road ways, she believes that the growth has more than doubled. She suggested possibly looking into a side mower, Tom said that would be a good question for Martin.

Zoom was briefly discussed as being used for future SB meetings. Rae would really like an in person meeting once a month. It was decided that the next regular meeting will be tried with Zoom.

Old Business: Don brought up the sub committee he is organizing for the town hall / library and he has a few people that are interested in joining him. Tom advised that the only interested person on the other committees was from Denise Gabaree with the Historical Society. Don and Tom plan on talking more about the committee before the next regular SB meeting.

Don mentioned the emailed power point from the Mad River Valley Ambulance that he had Sasha forward to the SB members. He wants to have it on everyone's radar for discussion for 2021. He also said that he found someone, Craig Oshkello, to donate some time to redesigning the area around the town gravel pit and the access to the swimming hole to make it safer.

Rae made the motion to approve the SB minutes from 07/06/2020. John seconded. All were in favor.

New Business: there was none.

Adjourn: Rae made the motion to adjourn at 8:03 pm. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Warrants signed: (Caught up by all at the town office after 07/06/2020 SB meeting)

A/P 20013 checks 21303-21316; A/P 20015 checks 21339-21357; A/P 20017 checks 21358-21387; A/P 20018 checks 21388-21400; A/P 20020 checks 21402-21410; A/P 20022 checks 21411-21431; A/P 20024 checks 21432-21455; A/P 20026 checks 21278-21493; A/P 20028 checks 21497-21521; A/P 20030 checks 21522-21544

P/R 20012 checks 21245-21246 E checks 3315-3327; P/R 20014 E checks 3329-3337; P/R 20016 E checks 3339-3348; P/R 20019 E checks 3350-3358; P/R 20021 E checks 3360-3368; P/R 20023 E checks 3370-3378; P/R 20025 E checks 3380-3388; P/R 20027 E checks 3390-3398; P/R 20029 E checks 3400-3409

Warrants dated 03/16/2020-07/07/2020