

**Town of Moretown
Selectboard Meeting
1/04/2021
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6201042716>
Via ZOOM Meeting ID 620 104 2716
Passcode D84ysR
Or to call in: 929-205-6099**

Board Members Present: Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn, Callie Streeter, Don Wexler

Guests Present: Clayton Wetzel, Jack & Pam Barnes, Jennifer Hill, David Specht, Michelle Beard, Sheila & Michael Getzinger, Dan St Cyr, MRVTV, Stefan Pratt, Cherilyn Brown, Sasha Elwell-Badore

Meeting called to order by Tom at 6:00 pm

Public Comment: Clayton was present to ask the SB about high-speed internet on the Montpelier side of Moretown – brief discussion was had about CV Fiber. Tom advised that he saw possible grants coming available for internet and encouraged him/all to contact their state reps. Clayton was also present to express concern about the lack of mask wearing at the Moretown store. It has been months since he has been inside, he only stops for gas and uses the pay at the pump option.

Sheila was present to speak with the SB about an incident at the Moretown store she had about 6 weeks prior. She wanted it pointed out that the SB does have leverage in enforcing the mask mandate. Their liquor license could be revoked or just not renewed, in order to have a license an establishment needs to be safe and sanitary. She told the SB about the incident that happened with a patron at the store, this individual was not wearing a mask and was very vocal about not wearing one. It was an uncomfortable situation and Sheila would like the SB to enforce the mandate, and believes a warning is in order about their liquor license.

Both Sheila and Michael wanted it known that they also do not have high-speed internet either.

SB plans on contacting Jolley Associates regarding the Moretown store.

Jack was present to inform the SB about a form that is incorrect on the website for applying for an accessory dwelling. He was inquiring about who's responsibility it is to update those forms. Tom said that it is the zoning administrator's responsibility to update forms for zoning.

6:15: Library – Jennifer Hill was present to propose a MOU between the library and town. She advised that it was just as a guideline, mostly for buildings and grounds. The

MOU that was being presented was just a draft, and most of it is all ready being done. SB input: Tom believes that the MOU is not necessary, he was quite taken back by the proposal. The whole SB agreed that it is not necessary, the library is a town library, there is no need to have a MOU in place. All of the SB members were surprised by the proposal on this. Jennifer was asked if there are any issues, to bring this on. She advised that there are not, the trustees wanted to be pro-active, rather than re-active. Their thought was that they are appreciative of the town hall, with the plumbing and parking especially, they wanted to be sure they are keeping up on their end of things. Tom spoke about the possibility of extending the library arrangement for another year in the town hall, the subject will be visited again later. Jennifer wanted to recap and bring the answer back to the library trustees. She confirmed that the SB says that things are going well and that the MOU is not necessary.

6:27: Zoning – David Specht wanted to address Jack Barnes concerns about the forms on the website, he advised that JB Weir had updated it for him in a very timely manner. David had not updated the forms since he has been in the zoning position with the town. He is working on getting input from the Development Review Board and Planning Commission regarding any updates he plans on doing to the zoning forms. Tom asked if David had any daily challenges and David said he had none. Tom reminded David that he needs to return phone calls and email responses in a timely manner. Even if he needs to research the answer, at least communicate that to them. There was brief discussion on any inquiries about zoning, they should be directed to the Planning Commission since they are working on the ordinance. Tom suggested meeting more often with David. He also asked about a couple issues/complaints that have been going on for over a year and where he was at with them. David wasn't willing to comment on them.

6:42: Budget – Cherilyn was present to go over more of the budget with the SB.

She has been dealing with the CVRPC on two budget items. The grant for the PC match was invoiced in 2020. CVRPC did not invoice the town in 2020 for the town match of the road inventory grant and work they did. That invoice will be coming sometime in January 2021. It was originally budgeted for 2020, so that money needs to be put back in the budget for 2021.

Cherilyn pointed out that there was no motion made on paying ourselves back the interest for the 2018 Dodge Ram. The motion was passed to pay the CRF back and that payment was made in 2020, but not on the interest. Tom made the motion to approve paying ourselves back (CRF) 1.55% in 2021 and 2022 on the Dodge Ram. John seconded. All were in favor.

Cherilyn brought up raises. Tom said that he is in favor of 2% increase for all employees. All were in agreement that everyone deserves a raise.

Tom believes the budget is pretty wrapped up, pretty well level funded across the board. He thanked Cherilyn for her hard work on this.

A town event was brought up and briefly discussed, in hopes of celebrating after Covid-19 is over. The SB agreed \$5,000 should be put aside for this.

6:56: Articles – Stefan was present to go over the air packs again. They need to be replaced. The air packs are over 15 years old. He applied for a grant to replace them all, 2 years in a row. He is asking that they be put into the budget, to replace at least 3 a year over the next few years and then their expirations will be staggered. The price for 3 units is \$21,705.26. Tom asked that he work with Cherilyn and Sasha on writing up an article and send it through the town lawyer for approval on the wording to be put on the ballot.

MRVAS – Tom read the letter from MRVAS to the SB requesting \$30,000 over two years. His opinion is that they should certainly be supported, but that is a big price tag. Rae would be in favor of supporting more along what Waterbury asks from the town. Some research is going to be done before the next SB meeting.

7:10: Old Business – Dan St Cyr from Clark’s was present to give an update on the new 2021 dump truck. There have been many delays due to Covid-19, some parts are coming from Canada and there are delays with the border crossings. They then go to Viking in New York and that is where most of the work is done. It will then go to Viking in Williston and Clark’s will need to do a few things before releasing it to the town. They are anticipating next week delivery. If there are any snow storms, they are willing to lend the town one of their used trucks to get us through. Cherilyn brought up that she hasn’t seen any paperwork, so that she can work on the financing end of things. Dan said that he would get her an invoice the next day.

Town Meeting – how are we going to vote? Cherilyn advised that almost all of the towns are going with Australian ballot and conducting informational meetings virtually, no more than ten days before March 2, 2021. All agreed that having town meeting is probably not an option this year due to Covid-19. It makes sense to do the informational meeting virtual and put everything that is normally voted on, onto the ballot. Cherilyn said that the Governor has not put out a directive yet. No decision was made.

Reports and Communications: John advised that the Finance Committee was meeting again this week. He talked about the previous meeting and the topic of paying taxes early with a discount. The logistics of it just would not work, with the added administrative output it would create. Along with the short window of getting tax bills out, the cashflow just would not be there. Tom mentioned that maybe as a SB everyone should consider when they pay their taxes.

The Finance Committee also discussed starting a maintenance fund (like the bridge & culvert fund), for large expenditures on equipment. Tom will meet with Cheryllyn to talk about this a bit further.

Rae spoke about the Moulton pin replacement, he advised that it should be completed in the spring. He also brought up the circle that needs repair on the grader. All agreed that it needs to be taken to Beauregard, Rae asked Stefan to let Martin know they can go ahead and get it there.

Callie spoke with Sheila regarding her email complaint, she wanted to follow up with her initial contact with the SB. The patron in the Moretown store was possibly a FD volunteer, but turned out not to be.

Tom brought up the paperwork sent to the SB regarding the T-Mobile cell tower changes on Cobb Hill Road. He urged everyone to look it over before the next meeting, it looks like it could be some significant changes.

Bliss Ridge submitted a liquor license to the SB for approval. They are planning on catering their own events instead of having someone else come in. Each time an event is catered, a liquor license has to be submitted. The only change would be that it would be a license once a year. David Specht advised that he would look into it as far as zoning goes, to be sure there are no restrictions. This will be discussed at the next SB meeting.

There is an interested party in the ACO position, Tom will be talking to that person at some point soon.

Tom asked that a couple members make a time this week to stop at the office and catch up on some warrants that need signing.

John made the motion to approve the SB minutes of 12/21/2020. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

More discussion was had on the mask wearing mandate. One concern is that the workers at the Moretown store, just aren't well informed about it. Jolley needs to be reached out to and get a conversation going about this complaint. That's what the first step will be, contacting them and make them aware of the issue. Tom has left a message for someone there, awaiting a return call.

New Business: there was none

Adjourn: Tom made the motion to adjourn at 8:01 pm. Don seconded. All were in favor.