

**Town of Moretown  
Select Board Meeting  
03/15/2021**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6201042716>**

**Via ZOOM Meeting ID 620 104 2716**

**Or to call in: 929-205-6099**

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

**Guests Present:** Chuck Burt, Stefan Pratt, MRVTV, Karen Horn, Cherilyn Brown, Mandy Couturier, Sasha Elwell-Badore

**Meeting called to order** by Tom at 6:00 PM

**Public Comment:** Chuck Burt and Karen Horn were present to ask the Selectboard to re-appoint them to CVFiber. Tom moved to re-appoint both Chuck Burt and Karen Horn (as Alternate) to CVFiber. Callie seconded. All were in favor. Chuck gave a brief update on what has been going on and he said that things are looking good for Moretown to be one of the first towns to get upgraded before the end of this calendar year.

**MOU** discussion was postponed until April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**6:13: Declaration of Inclusion** – Karen was present to discuss with the Selectboard adopting the Declaration of Inclusion statement. It shows the community that Moretown welcomes all people. This statement would be put onto the town website and be put into the annual town report. It reads as follows:

“The Town of Moretown condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, age, or disability, and will protect these classes to the fullest extent of the law. As a town, we formally condemn discrimination in all of its forms and commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community. The Town of Moretown has been and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.”

John made the motion to institute the Declaration of Inclusion as requested by Karen. Callie seconded. Tom, John, Callie and Don were in favor. Rae abstained, so that he could review it further.

**6:22: ACO** – Stefan was present to discuss the Animal Control Officer position, he is interested in trying it for a year. Brief discussion was had on the duties and what the SB would like him to do as far as communicating to the town office and the SB. It pays \$1,400 per-year, it could be paid to Stefan on a special warrant so that he doesn't get hit with a lot of taxes being taken out. Tom made the motion to appoint Stefan to the ACO position. John seconded. All were in favor.

**6:34: Grant Discussions** – Cherilyn was present to go over a few things going on with the grants. Good news was received about the Stormwater Project (which is part of the community parking lot). It is going to cost \$324,000 with no expense to the town. Tom recapped what brought this about, the catch basins need to be done before the parking lot can be paved. Therefore, the water and draining issues need to be fixed first. Cherilyn advised that this is two separate projects, the removal of the poor soil that is now in the parking lot is one part and the catch basins are the other part. It is a hope that the road department can do the work of digging up and moving out the poor soil, due to there being no grant available for that. Since the town has all of the equipment to accomplish this, it makes sense that the town does the work. Wednesday there is another meeting about the Stormwater Project, Rae will be involved with this one, along with John and Cherilyn. The estimated time of this project being done is 2023, depending on the construction of the next sidewalk project.

Cherilyn advised that the State will not be reimbursing the town for the removal of the fuel tanks at the Moretown Store (during the first sidewalk project). Chris Hunt is not giving up though, he has submitted the paperwork to someone else at the State. If they deny it this time around, the town will need to go directly to Jolley Associates. Tom reached out and left a message for them today, he will continue trying to get ahold of them. They have been very receptive with issues in the past, such as the mask mandate, he is hopeful on getting a response.

Cherilyn brought up the financing on the sidewalk project, the vote did pass March 02, 2021. Nothing can be done until 30 days after Town Meeting, but she wanted the SB to be thinking about it. She reached out to the banks again to get updated interest rates since they expire after 60 days. John thinks that the longer the term, the better. A 10-year term would be 2.75% and a 15-year term would be 3.05%. Tom asked that Cherilyn come to the next meeting to update them on the specifics, interest rate and what the payment per year would be for both terms. Tom asked that the Finance Review Committee have a meeting before the next SB meeting, so they can discuss what would work in the best interest of the town.

Cherilyn asked Don about the **Taplin School** grant, this grant was something that he worked on and it is coming up on Cherilyn's Annual Sub-Recipient Report for the grants. It was part of the Mad River By-Way/Kiosk at the Taplin School project. \$18,405 is showing open still and the town has paid \$7,000 on the design for this, (which may need to be paid back since nothing has been done with it). Don said that he would look into it and let Cherilyn know what he finds out. Cherilyn also brought up the minutes from the Library/Town Hall committee meeting and questioned the grant that they mentioned applying for. Don advised that it was something that Cory was working on, it's money from the Library Associates of America, to help engage the community. Cherilyn just asked that they keep her in the loop with what they are applying for,

because of the potential town match and also for audits. Don said that he didn't think there is a town match with the one that Cory was working on.

**6:57: Reports & Communications:** Callie wanted to clarify an email that she had Sasha send out to the rest of SB. She explained why she was not able to field any calls regarding the Animal Control.

Rae inquired to see if there was anything more on the Jenkinson accident up Ward Brook Road. He had left a voicemail for him the day that the complaint came in about the road. Cherilyn advised that she had not spoken to him again.

John spoke briefly about channel 44/22 contacting him on TM day about Article 35 – just let the TV station know that it was pre-mature.

Tom wanted to be sure that everyone saw the email from Martin Cameron, he will be out on medical leave in April for surgery.

Sasha had contact with Greg Nagurney and he would like to be re-appointed to the Agent to Prosecute position. Tom so moved. John seconded. All were in favor.

Cherilyn wanted the SB to know that she had reached out to the insurance company regarding the porta pond that the Fire Department lost off the back of a truck. There is a \$1,000 deductible, so it would not really be worth it. The total on the replacement is less than \$1,400.

Stefan advised that there are only two places in New England that sell the breathing apparatus that the Fire Department needs. He has requested sealed bids be mailed to the town office by 3/31/2021 so that they can be opened by the SB at the first April meeting.

**7:08: Old Business:** Don spoke briefly about the two meetings that they have had for the Town Hall / Library committee consisting of eight people. There was a question on lead paint testing and it has already been done.

**7:14: New Business:** things that the SB would like to work this year:

Rae would like to pursue a town septic system and move forward with that.

Don would like to get more educated on MES pulling out of the district. Also, he would like to get back to the redesign of the sand pit area. He would like to pursue the speed limit in the village as well.

Callie agreed with Don on the MES subject.

Tom would like to work with the Finance Review Committee on finding all the money out there this year to help the town out, as a part of the American Recovery Act. He would like to make that a priority and be ready for the opportunity. For example the broadband Chuck Burt was talking about or village septic system that Rae spoke about.

John would like to get working on the land management plan – he will be in contact with John Atkinson and Steve Robbins, and start pulling together a committee. Tom advised that he and Cheryl will be meeting with the town lawyer when they are able to do it in person, regarding the land that was donated to the town last year.

Tom would like to have Kristen and Lisa to a meeting, to see if there has been any changes on the HUUSD School Board since Town Meeting.

**Approve SB Minutes:** John made the motion to approve the SB Minutes of 03/01/2021. Callie seconded. All were in favor. John made the motion to approve the SB Minutes of 03/08/2021. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

**Adjourn:** Tom made the motion to adjourn at 7:30 PM. John seconded. All were in favor.