

**Town of Moretown Select Board Meeting
August 2, 2021 at 6:00 PM
79 School Street
In the John Hoogenboom Meeting Room**

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

Guests Present: Ed Clodfelter, Ethan Senterfitt, Stefan Pratt, John Summers, ORCA Media, Sasha Elwell-Badore

Meeting called to order by Tom at 6:00 PM

Public Comment: John Summers was present to speak with the SB about assistance with the drainage issue at the end of his driveway. Tom and Rae will get with Martin to discuss this.

Stefan was present to let the SB know about the ACO training he attended. He asked for the SB permission to talk to PACIF regarding ticketing for ACO fines. SB gave him permission to move forward with it.

Stefan said that the FD received their air packs.

Stefan also let the SB know that he may have a tear in his MCL, but he is still able to work (but being careful). He injured it last week while moving some rocks on the Moretown Common Road. He is unable to get an appointment for physical therapy until August 26.

6:05 Ethan Senterfitt (not Senterfitt, Sasha had a typo) Ethan has concerns about the **intersection of Route 100B and the Moretown Mountain Road**. He put out his concern on FPF regarding it and he received roughly 15 responses. His concern is the visibility at the corner and wondering if a mirror could be placed there. SB let him know that there has been a traffic study done on that intersection and that there has not been an accident reported, so the SOV does not see an issue. John H said that it seems worse since the Lone Pine was taken down. Rae advised that when the hill was paved, there were upgrades performed. At that time the SB tried to get more done as far as the visibility goes, putting a mirror across the road would be in the state right-of-way. Tom suggested asking Joyce Manchester about it, she will be into the next SB meeting. Tom asked that Ethan check back in with the SB in about a month.

6:20 **NEMRC – Ed Clodfelter** was present to discuss the Lister position or lack of listers (statewide issue) and the locking in of the reappraisal contract before the prices go up. Ed advised that there needs to be at least two listers to be able to sign off on the lodging of the Grand List every spring, (there is only one lister for the town right now). NEMRC will not let the town “flounder” or hang out to dry, but there are duties that need to be done on an ongoing basis. The lister position has gotten way more complex than it used to be, there is way more work than just a few months. Ed had reached out to the town back in the spring because the HS 122 had not been completed, Moretown had not done anything. There were 17 transfers, and not easy ones, so he advised the town to ask for an extension on the deadline. NEMRC was

able to get it completed, but this is something that should not be procrastinated over. The lister position is way more involved and there is a lot of education to be learned. Ed advised that he had four other towns call on him last week, (besides Moretown) no one is finding listers across the state. For things to move swiftly, ideally having someone be the point of contact within the town would be good – just to have someone reporting to NEMRC when there are tasks that need addressing. Ed advised that the sales verification on the VTax website is essential, and it needs to be done. As long as it is being checked and communicated to NEMRC they could take care of it since the town is now on the cloud with the NEMRC modules, the work can be done remotely. Tom let Ed know that the town needs to vote on this, and the lister issue should be addressed on a town meeting day vote. Sasha let Tom know that Michael Brown is still willing to be that person, the point of contact. He asked that a meeting be set up with Michael, Cherilyn, Sasha and himself, to discuss this further.

Ed let the SB know that unless the market changes the town will be required to have a town-wide reappraisal in 2022-2023. Ed brought an informational sheet showing what it has been over the last three years and the rate that the numbers are changing, it will be needed next year. NEMRC is scheduling into 2024 for town-wide appraisals, so along with the contract for the pricing, towns need to get their notification into them so that it can be scheduled as well. The cost as of now works out to be \$3,980 per month for a span of 24 months, totaling \$95,520, Tom checked the town report and the town has \$77,000 for that purpose. The state gives the town money every year to go towards the reappraisal. Due to the amount being over \$5,000, this job needs to go out to bid. Ed advised that there are not that many companies that give this service any more.

6:55 **Ampersand Moretown Hydro** – last year (2020) Ampersand appealed the assessed value of the dam, stating that it should be only worth \$390,000. They then appealed to the SOV, which has not gone through court yet. They have agreed to pay the taxes, interest and any penalties incurred for both 2020 and 2021, if the SB would agree to the fair market value being \$390,000. Ron advised the SB to go ahead and accept the settlement. John made the motion to accept the value of \$390,000 as the fair market value in 2020, so that this can be settled. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

7:00 **Lister Position** – Bill Magill has since had a job offer that will conflict with the lister position.

7:01 **Reports & Communications**

Sasha let the SB know that there was a stack of paperwork to be approved:

- Peak Mechanical for the PM servicing of the furnace at the town hall twice a year. They will also fix the MERV 13 that was installed at the town hall so that it is not running more than it should be. Efficiency Vermont found this out when they conducted their walk through earlier this summer.
- John assisted Sasha with the correct wording for the personnel policy, so that can be approved.

- There is an ACT 250 hearing scheduled for August 19 at the town hall, and Sasha wanted to be sure that this is to be treated as a town function, just as the window insulating training was and the SB agreed, yes it should be.
- Megan Kathan brought to the attention of the SB that there is a crack in the basement floor that has mold growing in it. As well as a few other issues, with light fixtures and the doorknob on the front door of the town hall is in need of some TLC. The SB advised her to go ahead and bleach the crack, treat it. Don suggested have Peak Mechanical take a look at the crack to see what their opinion would be, as well as having them look at the town garage with the condensation issue. Callie suggested reaching out to the basement guy she spoke about last year. Rae suggested that maybe Joe Gabaree could fix the door knob and Tom asked that Middlesex Electric be called in for the light fixtures that need to be fixed, (Rae believed that their name has changed to Lloyd's).
- Sasha also brought up the war monument by the road coming into the town office parking lot, it has been leaning for a while now. Mary Murphy had someone look at it and got an estimate of \$2,500 to fix it. Rae thought that maybe between the road crew and Joe Gabaree, they could fix.
- Sasha mentioned that Cheryllyn had printed out the revenue & expenditure report for each of the SB members.

John brought up an email from Chris Stephenson regarding GMP spraying under the power line in the town forest, they have been using Round Up. John advised that it is not good for the environment and when he had spoken to Jared at GMP, he wasn't willing to take direction from a committee, it needed to come from the Select Board. Tom made the motion to send a letter to GMP asking them to NOT use Round Up on the town property. Rae seconded. All were in favor. John will work with Sasha on writing a letter to GMP asking them to stop spraying Round Up in the town forest.

John made the motion to amend the SB minutes of 7/19/2021 as follows: *(on the final page) due to attorney / client communications regarding an accident on a town highway, per Title 1, Section 313(a). Also, to be added that Philip Woodward was asked to stay for the Executive Session. Then "all" were not in favor, it was voted 4 in favor and John abstained.* Callie seconded the amendment. All were in favor.

7:20 Old Business

Rae let the SB know that he had spoken to Martin about the Robert Turner program and he said that he is waiting to hear back from Robert. Rae also let him know that he is willing to meet with Robert as well, if need be. Tom suggested that Rodney get involved with this, he impressed him with the organization that he demonstrated last year.

Rae also reached out to E.F. Wall regarding the work that needs to be done at the town garage. An RFP needs to be done, and have a deadline of September. E.F. Wall thought that they could get to it in October. The work needs to be done by the end of the year in order for Efficiency Vermont to cover some of the costs.

Don stopped to the AOT in Middlesex and spoke with the assistant road foreman regarding the edge spots that are crumbling along Route 100B. Don advised that the next town hall committee meeting will be 8/11/2021.

7:30 New Business

John has concerns for the children getting Covid-19, it is mask back on for him with the recommendations put out by the CDC. Anything that is indoors, they are advising of wearing your masks. There was brief discussion on what is going on with the disease, even vaccinated individuals are getting the new Delta variant.

There is a vaccine clinic that will be held in the Moretown Community parking lot on August 4, 2021. The clinic will be conducted by the Waterbury Ambulance Service.

Don asked about cyber-security and what the town has in place. Sasha let him know that Butternut Systems has all of that covered. Tom asked that she find out what it is that the town has, just so everyone knows.

Brief discussion was had on placement of the porta potties for Morefest, suggestions were by the pavilion and near the entrance. Sasha let the SB know that the NorthStar fireworks contract was sent back. And Stefan signed off on the fireworks permit and returned that to them as well. Tom would like a sign printed up to thank the Moretown General Store for their donation. He would also like an invoice made up and sent to SB Collins (attention: Shawn Bartlett) so that they can pay for the pig roast portion of Morefest.

John inquired about something that the junk yard on Route 2 needs to sign with the town. He believes that it is something that is done periodically and needs to be looked into.

Warrants signed and approved:

Payroll 21031 e-checks 3728-3737
Accounts Payable 21032 checks 22448-22470

Peak Mechanical PM contract for the town hall was signed.
Personnel Policy was approved and signed.
NEMRC Assessor Agreement was signed.

Adjourn: Tom made the motion to adjourn at 7:57 PM. Callie seconded. All were in favor.