

**Town of Moretown Select Board Meeting
August 17, 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: Lt David White (VSP), Trooper Stackhouse (VSP), Erika Nichols-Frazer (Valley Reporter), Joyce Manchester (TAC), Sam Rosenberg, Chuck Burt (CV Fiber), Travis Blodgett, ORCA Media, Sasha Elwell-Badore

Meeting called to order by Tom at 6:00 PM

Public Comment: Travis brought up the LT 18 that was discussed/referred to at the 7/6 SB meeting and would like the SB to take a look and correct that number. He thinks that it is not right. Tom said that they would take a look at it and correct it at the next meeting.

6:05 **MRVRD Committee** – Sam Rosenberg was present to introduce himself, he moved to Moretown last year during Covid. Tom made the motion to appointed Sam to the MRVRD Committee. John seconded. All were in favor.

6:10 **"Calming the Traffic"** – Joyce Manchester from TAC was present to go over her findings and suggestions for the subject of calming the traffic. As well as a voiced concern over the lack of a sidewalk from Gallagher Acres along Route 2 towards Waterbury. She addressed the question of placing a mirror at the corner of Route 100B and Mountain Road. The mirror is not possible due to it being in the State of Vermont right-of-way, the state will not allow it. There are a few reasons: one is the glare from headlights; the other could cause some confusion, therefore causing an accident. Suggestions were made on changing the locations of the current blinking signs to the "out-skirt" of the village, closer to the small bridge just after Maynard's and the newer bridge just before Fekert's. Seeing those flashing signs, is a warning of a speed change and it could help slow the flow of traffic. Another solution to slowing the village speed is the phases of sidewalks, it closes in the outsides of the road, therefore slowing speeds. The next phase of the sidewalk project is underway now. Joyce advised that the 2022 Bike/ped grant will be open in April, this grant could assist with the sidewalk concern near Gallagher Acres. The SB gave her the go-ahead on this and to please keep Cherilyn copied in on all the responses, since she takes care of the grants. Lt White brought up discussion on portable flashing speed limit signs that could be posted in various parts of town. The battery needs to be charged every 48 hours. After being charged, they could re-locate the sign, bringing more awareness to problem speeding areas.

6:30 **Vermont State Police (VSP)** – Lieutenant David White and Trooper Stackhouse were present by request of invitation of the SB. They had input to share with the SB regarding the subject of speed through the village. Tom asked that they put together a proposal contract for

the SB to review, as far as what the VSP could do to help out Moretown. Lt White agreed to compose something and get it back to the SB.

Lt White gave a summary of data he collected between August 2020 through August 2021. The calls that went through VSP in that time frame were 190, 102 alone have been in 2021. Which is a lower-than-normal call volume, due to Covid. They responded to 9 vehicle complaints (mostly in the winter), gave out 21 tickets and issued 38 warnings. They also responded to complaints ranging from stalking; DUI's; theft and domestic violence (again thoughts of Covid and families being stuck home together). They are covering 42-48 shifts a week and there are only 3 Troopers on a shift. The force is stretched pretty thin with 2 vacancies, 3 deployed through 2022, 1 out for K-9 training and will be returning at the end of the year with the new K-9 unit and 1 new person coming in from the academy. Last year due to Covid, there was only one class. They have 17 signed up for the class that starts in Oct 2021.

Discussion was had on ATV's and the allowance of letting them drive on the class IV and III roads. Lt White advised that there is just no way to enforce an ordinance, VSP is not equipped for it and suggested asking fish and game about their enforcement. Callie will contact someone at VASA and Sasha will contact Chad Barrett.

The SB thanked Lt White and Trooper Stackhouse for taking the time to come in and answer questions.

6:55 **CV Fiber** – Chuck was present to speak with the SB regarding an update. Pole inventory is set to begin any day, they are waiting for the money to hit the bank account. Once that starts, CV Fiber trucks will be seen out and about. They are asking the town to contribute \$73,050 from the American Recovery Act Funds, as well as signing an MOU with them (which needs to be gone over). The more money that the towns are able to put in, the lower the subscription to customers will be. CV Fiber has also applied for grants through the SOV as well, they are not just asking for the towns to contribute. Chuck advised that they are in the early stages of discussion with Waitsfield/Champlain Telecom, possibly having them be the servicing agent. Chuck agreed to come back to the second SB meeting in September to see what the SB thoughts are on this money. Tom asked that the information that he was given be passed onto the rest of the SB so they can read through it as well and make an educated decision on it. There are only so many things that the money can go to and be spent on. Rae brought up a question of the amount of money and would it need to be voted on before the money could be delegated? Or is it just something that could be put into the budget for 2022? Some more digging needs to be done to figure this all out. Tom mentioned the "County" funds again, he has heard there was a solution in place now so that it trickles down to the towns.

7:15 **Reports & Communications** Sasha had a list of items, RFP for the town garage repairs, Rae wrote it up and needed the rest of the SB approval so that it can be advertised. There was no objections, so it will go in the newspaper on Wednesday. Then questioning the RFP for town-wide reappraisal, Sasha inquired about possible dates and town contact person. Tom suggested working on it with Cherilyn and getting her input with it. John had composed a letter for GMP regarding the spraying in the town forest, it just needed to be approved and signed off on so it could go out in the mail Wednesday. The Meeting Owl, the information was forwarded onto the SB after the last meeting, showing the prices. It was agreed that the town should go ahead and purchase the system and the ARAF's would cover it. Tom gave the go ahead to

purchase it. The invoice was sent to Jolley Associates for their donation towards the pig roast at Morefest. An appointment has been set up with the "basement guy" Callie spoke about, regarding the town hall basement. There had been some plumbing issues at the town hall, Treavor Clark was called to look at it. He advised that the toilets needed to be re-seated, a toilet seat needed to be replaced and one of the faucets needed replacing as well. He had both of the items needed, so he told Sasha that he would just charge the town for his time. The SB was appreciative and thanked Treavor for his generosity. Susan Werngen inquired about the town weed whacking at the old library building, Rae will get with the road crew on that. At the previous SB meeting, John had amended the wording on the executive session portion of the SB minutes. Sasha wanted to be sure that it was clearly corrected on the 8/2 SB minutes, he said that he was ok with it. John had also inquired at the previous meeting where things stood with the junk yard on route 2. Sasha dug into it and the document that requires the SB approval was last signed in August 2018, coming due again for approval in 2023. Quick discussion was had on the appearance of the fence and gates. Tom asked that David Specht check into the compliance of their location and state requirements.

Rae advised that Joe Gabaree fixed the door knob at the town hall and that he is working on a quote for fixing the war memorial. Rae also offered Martin some help with getting the Robert Turner System in place. And Rae is one month away from complete retirement, he hopes. Tom asked that when he speaks with Martin again to address the weed whacking at the library and to also have them weed whack around the Moretown Village sign as well.

Don received the ADA improvements report from Bill Gallup and made sure that everyone had a copy of it. He would like everyone to look it over and then re-visit it again later. The next town hall committee meeting is 8/19 at 5:30 PM. Don also wanted everyone to look at the notes he took from the initial meeting he had with Martin and Craig Oshkello at the gravel pit back in March. Tom suggested meeting at the gravel pit starting at 6:00 PM for the next SB meeting and then coming back to the town office for 6:30 PM for the rest of the meeting.

John let the SB know that the Waterbury Rec had 35 kids test positive for Covid, out of 150. He is very concerned for the kids when they go back to school. He mentioned a tree he was concerned with on the Mountain Road, he said that Martin had taken care of it. He asked that Rae have Martin take a look at the Poplar tree at the beginning of the driveway of the town office.

7:30 Rae made the **motion to accept the SB minutes of 8/2/2021**. Don would like them amended to correct, that when Peak looks at the crack in the town hall floor, possibly they could look at the town garage as well. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

7:35 **Old Business** – Meeting Owl system cost is \$999.00. Tom made the motion to go ahead with purchasing the Meeting Owl. John seconded. All were in favor.

Callie will contact VASA. Tom would like Sasha to contact Chad Barrett with Fish & Game to come into a SB meeting. John asked what everyone thought about the mirror on the corner, should the SB contact the mill? Quick discussion was had on it and it was decided, due to the liabilities the negative exceeds the positives.

7:37 **New Business** – there was none

Warrants signed and approved:

Payroll 21033 – e-checks 3739-3750

GMP letter approved and signed

Adjourn: Tom made the motion to adjourn at 7:40 PM. Rae seconded. All were in favor.