
**Town of Moretown Select Board Meeting
October 18, 2021 at 6:00 PM
79 School Street
In the John Hoogenboom Meeting Room
Via ZOOM Meeting ID 620 104 2716 or call in: 929-205-6099**

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

Guests Present: ORCA Media, Stefan Pratt, Eric Howes, Grace Vinson (CVRPC), Robert Turner, Sasha Elwell-Badore

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Tom

Public Comment: Eric was present to speak with the SB, he asked if they could go into **Executive Session**. Tom made the motion to **go into Executive Session** at 6:01 PM under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a)(4). John seconded. All were in favor. Tom made the motion to **exit Executive Session** at 6:27 PM. John seconded. All were in favor. No action taken.

6:27 Open Bids – RFP Town-Wide Reappraisal for 2024

There was only one bid submitted to the Town for this. It came from NEMRC - \$95,520. Monthly payments to start in July 2022. Experience with NEMRC has been positive and they have done great work for the Town. Tom made the motion to accept the bid that NEMRC presented to the Town. Callie seconded. All were in favor. Sasha will get the contract from Ed Clodfelter for the SB to sign.

6:30 Regional Emergency Management Committees (REMCs) – Grace and Stefan were present to discuss appointing the second representative from Moretown (Stefan being the first) to the State of Vermont. The meetings are done quarterly, Stefan can be the proxy for the person appointed. A few names were discussed to ask about this: Steve Smith or John Summers were thought of first, being part of the MRVAS. Then Cortney Guyette, she is a Moretown FD member and also part of the Waterbury Ambulance. Stefan will speak with her to see if she is interested. The SOV is requesting the appointment be done by November 1st, so it could be done at the next SB meeting.

Grace advised that she is the contact for the ARPA funds and there was brief discussion. The plan is to have her to another meeting at some point.

6:45 Public Meeting for VTRANS Alternatives Grant for North Moretown Sidewalk Scoping Study – there was no public person(s) present regarding this. Stefan wanted to point out that there may be a need to contract out for the maintenance, being on the other side of town.

6:46 **2022 Budget Discussion – Fire Department** – Stefan was present to discuss the budget for the FD. A few specifics were increasing the stipend, to give out awards to the volunteers (to keep moral up). He is not sure how much, but he knows that dispatching is going up. Stefan has been trying to purchase a new radio every year. He is asking for his Fire Warden pay to go from \$300 to \$500. He has been doing a lot in that department, and even dealt with some illegal burning recently. He advised that the last payment on the pumper truck is this year, so that part of the budget is going down. He reminded the SB about purchasing three more airpicks and whether or not it should be an article again or put into the budget, it is roughly \$25,000. Quick discussion was had on a new tanker, last time he priced one it was \$350,000 and that was the all-wheel drive package to ensure getting as close (to the fires as possible). That price included 200 more gallons, making the tanker a 2,000-gallon truck. A new tanker is estimated to last 15-20 years, Stefan feels that it will need to be replaced in the next 2-4 years. The old one could be repurposed for the road department for spreading chloride. Rae suggested checking into other cities where they could be upgrading their pumper, but what they retire may be just what Moretown needs. Stefan advised that there is trouble with the primer right now and he received one quote for \$1,800. He wanted to run it by the SB, advising that it is still in the FD budget. Tom approved it getting done as soon as possible. One last item was a Smart thermostat for the FD, when Efficiency Vermont did the walk through that was a suggestion. Stefan will check into the cost of it and what it entails. Sasha will contact Brad Long to see if there are any rebates available.

7:00 **RMS Update** – Robert Turner was present to go over the progress he has had with the RMS and the road department. The guys have been using the system and there has been a few tweaks needed for other information on the grants and invoicing the school. He advised that the project is close to 90% done. The next task will be to figure out the marrying it up to a server so that it can talk to the other computers. IT will need to get involved with this process, so there is back-up as well. Sasha will contact Butternut Systems. Thoughts were discussed on tablets vs. another computer at the town garage.

7:15 Reports & Communications:

Sasha let the SB know that the Planning Commission minutes have now been updated on the website, as Travis Blodgett was inquiring about it at the last SB meeting. Also, had contact with Franco at CAI – he advised that he would not have an answer on the Ira Hatch inquiry before the meeting. Sasha will follow up with him.

John has not heard back from St Patrick’s church regarding the stormwater. He looked at the map at the town office and it doesn’t look like it will be on Howland’s property, it is the church. Both John & Rae are planning on attending the hearing on Thursday, regarding the continuance on the stormwater with the DRB.

John spoke briefly about the black cherry tree at the end of School Street, it needs to come down. It is very close to the power lines, so an RFP should be done to get it taken down.

John also spoke with Michael Brown on the land management, since he is a forester. John is hoping to form a committee perhaps in late January or February.

Rae had a meeting with Suzanne Smith (Moretown Common Road) and Martin on Friday. They determined that there is a spring in the middle of her yard. Rae will be sending an email to Sasha to forward onto Suzanne explaining that. They had a brief conversation with her, but due to a broken foot she was unable to get to the spot in question.

Don updated the SB on the electrical project at the town garage. Mehuron Electric is planning on starting at the beginning of November.

Don spoke briefly about the town hall / library committee presentation on Sunday and they will be doing it virtually on Thursday as well. He advised that they will be meeting again on Oct 28. Tom asked if there was a good variety of community members, Don thought that there has been.

John made the motion to **approve the SB minutes of 10/04/2021**. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

7:25 **New Business:** Don suggested that the SB think about ways of communicating with other committees. For example, a "newsletter" type of thing, just coming out of meetings and having bullet points to pass on to a certain group of people. More thoughts will go into this, everyone liked the idea.

Tom brought up discussion on the budget and what employees are being paid. He would like to meet with everyone and evaluate what everyone is doing (road department and the town office). He wants to continue being competitive with other towns, in keeping up with wages and employee appreciation. Sasha asked when the last time the Select Board had a raise, and no one could recall. She wanted to be sure they know they aren't paid enough (in her opinion) and thanked them for all that they do.

John brought up the Nov 2nd vote, the SB had brief discussion on the bond. Tom wanted to be sure that everyone voted their conscience.

Warrants signed and approved:

Accounts Payable 21044 check # 22616 – 22641

Payroll 21043 e-checks 3789 – 3800 and check # 22611 – 22615

Adjourn: Tom made the motion to adjourn at 7:55 PM. John seconded. All were in favor.