
**Town of Moretown Select Board Meeting
December 06, 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, Don Wexler, Callie Streeter (via ZOOM)

Guests Present: Stefan Pratt, Peter Langella, Cherilyn Brown, Sasha Elwell-Badore

Meeting called to order by Tom at 6:04 PM

Public Comment: Peter was present to advocate for bringing back the mask mandate, his concern is keeping everyone protected.

6:07 **2022 Budget** – Cherilyn was present to go over more on the budget. Discussion was had on the dehumidifier for the town hall, it was agreed that even with any future plans for the town hall – this is still needed. Cherilyn brought up the window project and confirmed with the SB that a check for the town portion of the grant should be cut and held onto so that it comes out of the 2021 budget.

Continuing discussion was had on the RMS, Robert Turner spoke with Butternut Systems and the project could be finished up for about \$800. With this, there is still money in the road department budget for this year, so getting that invoice for the additional computer at the town garage should be done in 2021. Sasha will get in contact with Butternut to get this moving forward.

The Washington County 2022 tax amount will not be available until the end of this month, so that will have to wait to be put into the budget. Liability is up in the air, but usually goes up, that is affected by employees coming and going. The majority of what was remaining for discussion was payroll, VMERS, and FICA.

Quick discussion was had on the fixing the war memorial, Rae advised that Joe Gabaree quoted \$2,700. It was agreed that it should come out of general town expenses. Don wondered if the VA would possibly have funds for helping fix the memorial. Sasha will check into that. There has been nothing taken out of the budget this year for the class IV roads, Rae will check with Martin on that.

Tom started the discussion on hourly rates. Rae and Tom met with the road department individually, all of them would like to take more yearly classes. The present road crew works well together and they make a good team. Martin assured Rae and Tom that he is taking care of the trailer endorsements by the end of the year. Tom's thought on Stefan's pay was that it needs to be a step up. He was hired on full-time in 2018 as the 4th guy and he now has his CDL, presently he is at \$19.25 per hour. Rae added that Stefan was "green" when he started, but he is really shining now. A significant increase for Stefan was agreed on, Tom's suggestion

was \$22.50-\$23.00. The surrounding towns (Berlin, Duxbury and Warren) start out about \$22.00. It was agreed that Stefan should be up to \$23.00 per hour. As for the rest, discussion was had on possibly giving a 6% raise across the board. It was then mentioned that social security is increasing by 7%. All agreed that that figure was fair. Bringing hourly rates up to the following:

Martin \$31.17; Rodney \$25.61; Shawn \$23.94; Stefan \$23.00; Library Director \$18.77

Since it was getting late, the continuing discussion on the budget was pushed to later in the meeting.

6:43 Discussion on Masks – what Phil Scott has put into place recently, gives the SB authority to put the mask mandate back into place. There were emails sent to the SB that were in favor and others were not in favor, split 50/50. There was brief discussion on the subject and then John made the motion to mandate wearing masks at any public event taking place at the town hall. Callie seconded. John then amended the motion to cover any public events at the town hall, requiring a mask if you are not able to be vaccinated or show proof of vaccination. Rae seconded. More discussion was had on simplifying it, just to require people to wear their masks. Vote: Tom, John, Rae and Don voted in favor. Callie voted against it. Motion passed. Sasha will get it posted and let the dance company know as well.

7:00 Reports & Communications: Sasha obtained a contract price from Gillespie Fuels for 6500 gallons of propane at \$1.69 per gallon. The SB thought it was a great deal and planned on signing off on it. The plan was to email the contract right back to them after the meeting.

Sasha brought up needing an amendment on the 11/01/2021 SB meeting to show the amount that was asked for the Charles O. Davis Fund request. Cherilyn advised that it is something that the auditors look for. Tom said they would circle back to it at the end of the meeting.

Sasha let the SB know that the Planning Commission surveys are out, regarding updating the zoning regulations, which are due back to them by January 15.

There was an inquiry last week regarding a land locked parcel on the Mountain Road, he had met with Martin about the LT – wondered where he should go from there. SB advised that he should ask a lawyer and perhaps get a survey done, or get permission from the other land owner. Sasha will get back to him and let him know.

Sasha let the SB know that Charlie Bisbee had sent a proposal over and Tom said that he would like to discuss it in further detail at the first January meeting, at a glance the two options look very reasonable.

Sasha asked Tom if he had found out anything new on the LT 17. He is still going through the paperwork, but he believes that it is taken care and done.

Rae would like to move forward with the state municipal sewer system, right now there is no money required to get started on it. Tom suggested he speak with Clark Amadon about it.

Rae let the SB know that Don & himself met with E.F. Wall at the town garage regarding the condensation issue. They are working on a quote and hoping to have it to Rae before the end of the year.

Don let the SB know that he was able to fix the door knob at the town hall and he is planning on contacting Joe Gabaree about the door itself, because it is rubbing on the door frame.

Don mentioned that there is an ARPA Funds webinar January 14 at 10:30 being done by Katie Buckley at VLCT.

John brought up the potholes on the back side of the Common Road, he asked that Sasha try contacting someone with the state about them. Tom said that our district guy used to be in Colchester but there was some redistricting being done and he may be in Middlesex now.

Tom mentioned to the SB that if they had not already heard about it, a town dump truck had a rollover on November 27, 2021. Martin was not injured because he was standing outside of the truck when it rolled over. Tom asked Stefan if they had heard anything back from Sheldon Truck. He said that they changed the fluids, they are waiting on a quote for the damage done to the door and waiting on the mirror replacement to come in. The plan was to go pick it up at Sheldon the next day (Tuesday).

7:30 **Old Business:** Cherilyn had heard a suggestion on the ARPA Funds, where the broad band was concerned. Instead of giving the money to broad band (CV Fiber), you could loan the money out. She needs to do some more digging into the specifics for this.

Don commended Tom for handling the last meeting so well, with all of the technical issues. He asked about having a "round-table" with the SB, Library Trustees and the Town Hall/Library Committee. Tom suggested the first meeting in January, and schedule 45 minutes.

Don suggested something to think about for 2022 – moving the sand pit and town garage, giving better access to the river and do something different with the town garage. Rae suggested that it needs to be along Route 100B. John had an idea of forming a town forum, maybe on the 5th Mondays of the month (those months that have a fifth Monday in them).

John brought up moving the blinking speed signs, with the skiers coming in and the roads getting busier, this should be addressed. As discussed at a prior meeting, placing them further outside the village (by Fekert's and Maynard's). Tom remembered a contact at the state and will give him a try.

7:49 **New Business:** Don let the rest of the SB members know that Christine Harris with the dance company is interested in taking the piano that has been on the stage at the town hall. That is if no one objects, he has spoken to Denise to be sure that the Historical Society didn't have ties to it.

7:50 **Continued 2022 Budget Discussion:** ACO – brief discussion was had on the pay and it was decided to increase it to \$1,900 plus mileage. Stefan advised that he has drafted up a new ordinance, this will hopefully give more reinforcement. Fire Warden pay was increased to 500.00 and adding \$50 for mileage. Tom asked that he keep track of it and be sure to hand it in. E911, JB Weir has not had time for this part of the ZA position. Stefan is interested in taking on a few hours a month for helping out with the E911. A measuring wheel will be purchased for that.

Quick discussion was had on the ZA position, perhaps tweaking the job description that is advertised may be needed – thoughts that it could be too intense were tossed around. Sasha

will email the SB the description that has been advertised for more brainstorming on this. The ZA takes in approximately 30 permits a year, (at least in 2021).

Charles O. Davis amendment from the 11/01/2021 SB minutes – Tom made the motion to amend the original motion so that it reflected the amount of money requested, \$2,482.31. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

8:10 connection to ZOOM was lost, due to battery dying on the laptop.

Warrants signed and approved:

Payroll 21052 e-checks 3832-3842; 21050 e-checks 3822-3830

Accounts Payable 21053 checks 22780-22796; 21049 checks 22745-22760; 21051 checks 22761-22779

Gillespie contract was approved and signed.

Don made the **motion to approve the SB minutes** from the 11/15/2021 meeting. John seconded. All were in favor.

Adjourn: Tom made the motion to adjourn at 8:15 PM. Rae seconded. All were in favor.