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**Town of Moretown Select Board Meeting**  
**March 21, 2022 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**

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

**Guests Present:** MRVTV, Susan Werntgen, Chris Stephenson, Stefan Pratt, Travis Blodgett, Gregg Mason, Sasha Elwell-Badore

**Meeting called to order** by Tom at 6:05 PM (throughout there were technical difficulties)

**Public Comment:** Travis voiced concerns on the agenda not showing on the website. Tom let him know that the website is a project that is being worked on. He also asked about Legal Trails being off the list of pending discussion. Tom advised that RFP's have gone out for surveying LT's as the SB has previously talked about. He advised that the process of figuring out how to determine where to start will be addressed later.

Quick discussion was had on the mud over the Mountain Road, Travis voiced appreciation for what the road crew has done. Tom had spoken with the road crew and there are currently four (4) roads that are impassable.

Gregg Mason was present to show interest in being a part of the recreation committee. Tom made the motion to appoint Gregg Mason to the recreation committee. John seconded. All were in favor.

**6:14 Recreation Committee** – Chris and Susan were present to update the SB on a survey they would like to get out to Moretown residents. Community Value Recreation Survey -2022. The goal is to find out if it's known that there are recreation activities in town; what people like to do for (summer/winter) recreation – along with what other towns have for events and facilities. They plan on rolling the survey out in April, in hopes that responses will be back by June. That way it gives them time to discuss the survey results in July/August, in time for the budget planning in September. They want to focus on the Moretown residents. The survey will be accessible online and hard copy.

They have a plan of contributing a pollinator garden(s), *Bee the Change*, a non-profit company is encouraging every town in Vermont to plant an acre of pollinating gardens. They're meeting with *Bee the Change* on Friday to determine the best spots for this project. The committee is hoping to utilize the space between the town office and the pavilion. Then perhaps down the road, after the stormwater project is complete, plans could move closer to that area. The recreation committee also plans on freshening up the Peace Garden, where some trees were planted in honor of a couple retired teachers. There was a suggestion of them looking at the side hill near the town office, where the lilies were planted. Tom asked that they come back and update the SB on what they find out after the walk-through on Friday.

6:35 **SCBA FD** – Stefan was present to go over the quotes he received from three (3) companies for the breathing apparatus. The quotes ranged from \$24,949 to \$28,405, the lowest being the same company that the last three units were purchased from, Reynolds & Son in Barre Vermont. Prices have gone up more in the last year. Stefan asked that he have permission to put the order in as soon as the thirty days after town meeting is here, so that the town is able to keep the pricing on the quotes. Stefan advised that he thought he could absorb the difference in cost, since \$22,000 is what the voters approved. There is a difference of \$2,948.10 over the voted amount on just the cheaper quote received. **Tom made the motion to accept the Reynold’s & Son quote on the SCBA and to go ahead with moving forward on the purchase.** Callie seconded. All were in favor. Stefan then mentioned something about the tractor for the road department, and that the quotes are considerably more than the original numbers that were received. Tom reminded him that the sealed bids for the tractor are not due to the town office until April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Reports & Communications:** There was an email from Ethan Swain regarding a refund from the town on a late homestead filing in 2021. He is asking that the SB refund the penalty on the filing late fee he was charged by the SOV, \$548.68. The SB decided to “table” this request for now and do some digging into the situation and what has been done for people in the past.

Sasha inquired about mailing out the check for the grader engine repairs, Tom asked that it be held a little bit longer since there are still some hiccups with the way it is running.

Sasha reminded the SB that Bonnie at CVRPC would like questions sent to her so that she is prepared for the meeting she will be present at April 18<sup>th</sup>. There were only two at this time: both regarding CV Fiber – at one time VLCT recommended lending them money instead of giving them money. The SB would like clarification on which way would be better. They would also like the thoughts on how much of a risk it is to use ARPA funds for CV Fiber.

Sasha heard back from the contact at the SOV regarding the appearance of the fencing at GHR, (the junk yard on Route 2). He called the office to clarify what was being asked, and he advised he would call GHR and said that they have been very responsive in the past.

Sasha brought up the website, Charlie Bisbee that approached the town last fall decided that he was not interested in obtaining a COI (Certificate of Insurance) for doing upgrades on the town’s website. Gabe Halberg with Dadra Design in Montpelier advised that he could attend a meeting during work hours. When spoken with prior, he thought perhaps it could be done for around \$5,000. Where a few other companies were estimating upwards of \$15,000. The SB all agreed to check out other municipal websites and see who has more user-friendly abilities and share it with the rest of the SB.

Sasha let the SB know that Cherilyn and herself worked on cleaning out the storage unit that the town has had for the past few years, actually since Irene. There was probably one more trip to be made – recycling/shredding, etc. and then it would be only the big land record books. Which has narrowed down the need for the storage unit considerably, possibly taking up a 5’ x

5' space, also pointing out that the goal is to save the town some money in not having that invoice every month. In addition, asked for assistance with moving them once a better storage spot was found (maybe the road crew could help out). Thoughts were possibly putting them at the old library building/historical society. Tom asked that Don work on that.

Rae mentioned asking for a meeting to be scheduled for the FRC, he has concerns about CV Fiber.

Rae had spoken with John Summers regarding the ditch issues he has been experiencing. John feels that the town has some responsibility. Rae suggested maybe having an on-site visit. The repairs on his driveway totaled \$2,000 and perhaps the town could give him a 10% reimbursement. Rae wanted it on record that he had spoken with John about it. He also mentioned that the ditch has been there since before John bought the house.

Rae mentioned the mud – it has been difficult and not a lot can be done about it, most people that have called/spoken to have been reasonable. He said that there has been barricades on Lynch Hill blocking the loop around the mountain, discouraging the 4x4's from using it.

Tom mentioned that the road crew was planning on going out around midnight and doing 12-hour shifts, trying to keep up with the mud – during the night it's not as soft.

Don suggested putting it out there for more community awareness and to help cut down on the traffic – such as placing less orders online; trash pick-ups; or fuel trucks. Just making it easier on neighbors, the road crew and ourselves.

Callie mentioned concerns with the new residents at the old school house on Jones Brook Road. They have a habit of parking on the road and Callie is fearful of there being accident there because it's on a blind corner.

Don mentioned having walked the gravel pit with Craig Oshkello and has also spoken with Michael Brown about the trees. Don & John met with Joyce Manchester on some town safety issues, speed being one of them. Tom let him know that he is still working on the blinking lights and will get back with Jeff Cota at the SOV. Don asked if there was any news on the sidewalk for Gallagher Acres, Tom reminded him that the feasibility study is the first part of the process and Cherilyn should be asked for any updates.

Don advised that the town hall committee only had three (3) people attend, he thought that maybe the mud had an impact on it. Carla Lewis is composing a spreadsheet of potential grants that she has been looking into. Don said that he is going to be contacting Cherilyn, regarding the doors at the town hall that should be replaced. The preservation people may have an idea on someone to call. Quick discussion on assistance with an RFP was had, Don has a contact that will donate some time. The water mitigation needs to be addressed – Don will work with Cherilyn on that as well.

John spoke about wanting two (2) crosswalks in the village, he mentioned one that he saw in Waitsfield that he would like to see utilized in the village.

John also received a few phone calls regarding the muddy roads.

Tom brought up the HUUSD School Board and the positive changes emerging. Kristen Rodgers is now the chair person; Lisa Mason is the vice chair on a financial committee; and along with the new superintendent things are looking up.

District 6 sent out an email requesting a meeting with Moretown, Rae is going to contact them to set it up for himself and Martin. It will be good to get a contact established, hopefully get some attention on the pooling water and guardrail from when the pavement was done on Route 100B.

Tom asked if Lt White with the VSP had responded with a proposal. Sasha advised that he regrets that he is unable to give the town one right now, he didn't receive any cadets that were expected. VSP is still working very short staffed. Sasha will reach out to the sheriff's department again. Tom suggested contacting Maxine Grad, the lack of law enforcement is a concern.

**Old Business:** there was none

**New Business:** there was none

John **made the motion to approve the SB minutes** of 03/07/2022. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

**Warrants** signed & approved

Payroll 22011 e-checks 3911 – 3920 & check 22973

Accounts Payable 22012 check 22974 – 22988

**Documents approved:** MRG Permit 2022; MOU for HUUSD; Parent Construction Contract for the Fletcher Road bridge.

**Adjourn:** Tom made the motion to adjourn at 7:48 PM. Callie seconded. All were in favor.