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**Moretown Select Board Meeting**  
**May 16, 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, Rae Washburn, Callie Streeter, via ZOOM at 6:30 John Hoogenboom, not present Don Wexler

**Guests Present:** ORCA, Travis Blodgett, Stefan Pratt, Denise McCarty, John Lynch, Jeff Poitras, Cory Stephenson, Sasha Elwell

**Meeting called to order** by Tom at 6:00 PM

**Public Comment:** Travis inquired about Legal Trails and Class IV Road Policies, asking if they are still in affect? The answer was yes. He also inquired about law enforcement and wanted to know if there was anything new. There are concerns about speeding over the Mountain Road. There has been nothing new, there is still a shortage of troopers/officers.

Cory wanted to ask the SB permission to spend their ARPA funds, being that the amount is over \$1,200. The library would like to purchase some furniture, to update existing items and add to what they have now. They applied for the ARPA funds and were awarded \$2,834. Tom made the motion to allow the library to spend their ARPA funds on furniture. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Cory let the SB know that they have received a grant for purchasing outdoor games and she is in hopes of having them available for Memorial Day weekend.

6:10 **Speed on the Back Roads** – John L was present to speak with the SB regarding the speed limit on the back roads. He is very passionate about the subject – he read parts of Title 23 – overview being that you need to share the road with everything. He is willing to crowd fund lower speed limit signs, or ask the sheriff's department to park an empty sheriff vehicle somewhere in town, just the presence alone would slow travelers down. There was discussion regarding more signs and perhaps 25 – 30 MPH, instead of 35. The roads need to be posted correctly in order for the speed enforcement to be enforced. Signs need to be at intersections and so many feet apart, as well as, hung at the correct height. John L said that the Montpelier maintenance department had actually constructed a couple of the signs, because they were so expensive. He also mentioned that anyone can do their part in calling the VSP with a plate number, color of the vehicle and how many occupants - sometimes a phone call is enough to bring their attention to correcting themselves. Tom asked that Sasha do some inquiries regarding signage, along with contacting law enforcement again. John L mentioned that Samuel Hill's term is up in November. Leaving on a good note, John complimented the SB, along will all of the employees at the town for what they do.

6:30 **Fire District** – Jeff Poitras was present to ask the town if they were interested in taking over the Duxbury/Moretown fire district (fire hydrants and water). Jeff let the SB know there is only 50-60 customers that would be in Moretown, he doesn't believe that it would be beneficial to the town. He is meeting with Duxbury next week and then he is going to approach Waterbury. Waterbury has been doing the billing for the water as well as the water testing. Besides the billing, the maintenance on the water lines would be the only other job with taking it over. Last year was the first year there was an issue with any lines breaking. Tom made the motion to "walk away" (for lack of a better term) from taking over the Duxbury/Moretown fire district. Rae seconded. All were in favor. Stefan thanked Jeff for all that he has done for the town.

**Reports & Communications** there has been a request to use the rec fields for a graduation party, two of the grads live in Moretown. Tom wanted to be sure that the fields are left as they are and put out on FPF that these areas would be used at that time and to be sure that things are quiet after 10:00 PM. He also wanted to be sure that the insurance that the town has would cover such an event and the SB didn't think that there should be a charge for using the fields.

Chuck Burt has agreed to be involved with more in-depth questions for the two companies that are willing to help the town out with the website. Tom would like a few people to have a meeting with each company as soon as possible.

Ira Hatch contacted Sasha and still would like an explanation as to what happened with the error on his property. A letter was composed with a detail and Tom asked that Sasha send it to CAI for their input.

100 on 100 Race is coming up on August 13, 2022 – Andy Ellis sent his yearly email to get the SB permission. As usual there are no issues with it, permission granted.

Ron Shems let the town know that his hourly rate is going up from \$100 per hour to \$180 per hour.

Callie mentioned the new mower and that it seems to be doing good, the fields were all mowed for the circus MES put on last Thursday.

John attended his first clean water meeting, first in quite some time. John and Don had another meeting with Joyce Manchester regarding the flashing lights – the permit needs to be changed, it was originally part of the Safe Routes to School Program. Joyce is contacting another department within the SOV regarding the crosswalks.

John mentioned that David Stapleton, by default may need to be involved with the town land management. Mandy is on board from MES as well, with John, Rae and Michael Brown. John wanted to be sure that the \$1,800 Michael Brown is charging (with a discount) funds were discussed. It was agreed that there shouldn't be any issues with the ARPA funds.

Tom had some complaints about the dusty roads, he contacted Martin and the road crew is working on that.

6:59 John made the **motion to approve the SB minutes of 5/02/2022**. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

7:00 **Additional Insurance for Employees** – VLCT is now offering the town full-time employees life insurance. The town needs to initially offer a start up of \$10,000 to the employee and then if they chose to upgrade further for more coverage, they would then have it deducted. The coverage for the six full time employees would be less than \$160.00 per year. It was agreed that it is very reasonable. Tom made the motion to approve the life insurance for the six full time employees. Rae seconded. All were in favor. In addition, VLCT is offering pet insurance as well, they just need SB approval to be under the town entity. John so moved that the town allow the voluntary pet insurance at the employee's expense. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

**New Business** – there was none

7:05 **Old Business** – Rae brought up the speeding and perhaps looking into additional flashing signs – portable vs stationary. Tom thought perhaps it could be purchased with ARPA Funds. Rae hopes that the ARPA Advisory Committee will have recommendations for the SB by the first meeting in June, particularly for CV Fiber.

Now that Rae is on the mend and feeling better from surgery, he would like to focus on the LT's and establish more of a plan. Rae, Tom and Martin will plan on meeting on Cobb Hill to scope out the situation further. Until the three meet, the road maintenance permit for Cobb Hill will be tabled until then. Tom would like the PC to be involved with these issues as well, and feels the SB & PC need to address what the roads should look like after properties are built. Travis challenged the SB with the 2016 Town Plan, and that in doing so, it is going against that. Further discussion was had on road classification and the groups. Maybe something can be done, maybe not. The intent is to make the town more inviting and more appealing for new residents.

Rae mentioned the Stormwater Project, he was under the impression that it would be built this year. The RFP that went out was not for finding a contractor, it was to hire a consultant to put out an RFP for a contractor. That RFP is due May 18 and then June 2 it will be put out for the contractor. He is concerned that this will not be done this year since it seems to be pushed out, he will keep pressing on.

Tom mentioned the ZA position, the applicant withdrew his application. CVRPC has extended Clare Rock's services to the town another month. Fayston is looking for a ZA again, Bonnie at CVRPC suggested collaborating with Fayston to create a full-time position between the two towns. Tom wants to catch up with Bonnie and David Stapleton to discuss this further.

7:30 Other Pending Old Business – Ethan Swain's request for his tax bill to be forgiven, due to the late filed homestead was briefly discussed. The SB has done it for others in the past and in staying with that precedence, Rae made the motion to forgive the \$548.30 on Ethan Swain's property tax bill. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Road Crew hours – brief discussion was had on them switching to 4 – 10's. With the daylight being longer, it makes sense. Tom feels that when school starts back up in the fall, there should be people available for any issues that may arise. It was agreed that their 4 – 10's will start next week and continue through Labor Day in September.

**Warrants** signed and approved

PR 22016 e-checks 3944 - 3953

PR 22018 e-checks 3955 - 3964

AP 22017 checks 23018 – 23066

AP 22019 checks 23067 - 23100

**Adjourn:** Tom made the motion to adjourn at 7:38 PM. Rae seconded. All were in favor.