
Moretown Select Board Meeting
June 6, 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

Members Present: John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn, Callie Streeter, Don Wexler, (not present Tom Martin)

Guests Present: ORCA, Ira Hatch, Chuck Burt, Martin Cameron, Dick Valentinetti, Travis Blodgett, Stefan Pratt, Denise McCarty, Karen Sauther, David Stapleton, Sasha Elwell

Meeting called to order by John at 6:00 PM

Public Comment Chuck Burt was present to be sure that the SB had the updated CV Fiber documents – so that the recommendation of the ARPA Advisory Committee could be thought about and discussed at the June 20 SB meeting. Chuck advised that Middlesex, Worcester, Waterbury and Cabot have committed.

Travis wanted to thank the parties responsible for updating the VTrans map on the town website since the last meeting. He also brought up concerns about a subdivision on the Mountain Road as well as the permit issued on Cobb Hill Road.

6:10 Discussion on Stormwater Project – there was brief discussion on the meeting this week, once this meeting takes place – it can be discussed further at the next SB meeting. Rae believes that holding off until 2023 would be best, being that it is now June and this all should be completed while school is out for the summer. Possibly it could be worked on and allow the time for bidding and then schedule for the work to be started and done next spring/summer.

6:13 Ira Hatch was present to discuss what happened with his property when CAI initially did their work with the tax maps. He actually visited the town office earlier in the day and spoke with Cherilyn. She helped him understand what came about with some changes, not just with his property, but the town as a whole. He was happy with how she explained it to him, he just didn't want to not show up, being that he was scheduled for a time slot at the SB meeting.

6:25 Zoning Administrator position – Karen Sauther was present to discuss the ZA position with the SB, she had already met with the Planning Commission. She told the SB about her work history. She currently lives in Fayston and was elected to the chair of the Fayston Planning Commission in March 2022. Fayston's PC meetings are the 2nd Monday of the month, so it should not conflict with any DRB hearings she would need to attend. When asked why she wasn't applying for the Fayston ZA position, she advised that they are looking for 35 hours a week, where Moretown is looking for 10-12 hours a week, on average. Rae spoke about the current situation that the town is having on a few permits, so that she is well aware of what it transpiring. She is an avid believer in quality control and she loves to have someone else look over her work. Karen would be happy to assist with making up a simple list so there are checks

and balances. John suggested \$33.00 per hour to start with a review after 4-6 months. A laptop would probably be feasible for remote work, the SB agreed to discuss it further. Karen would like to speak with Clare and JB and get back to the SB by Friday. John made the motion to offer Karen the ZA position at \$33 per hour with a review in six months and a starting date of July 11th. Callie seconded. All were in favor. Karen will let the town know by Friday.

6:45 Animal Control Ordinance – Stefan was present to ask for guidance on the ordinance. It has not been updated in a long time. He has worked with VLCT on it and if the updates are implemented, he would be able to issue tickets. Issuing tickets would bring the fines to a higher level, particularly for repeat offenders. Bringing the fines to the SOV level, wages could be garnished if they went unpaid. Stefan is looking for a public hearing to be held by the SB, then they can vote on it. Sasha will get with Ron on the wording of the warning, so as this can move forward.

6:50 Reports & Communications Rae mentioned the meeting with the ARPA Advisory Committee – they have recommendations for \$50,000 for CV Fiber, flashing speed limit signs and additional guardrails where needed. The Village Sewer Committee is scheduled to interview the two consulting/engineering firms at the end of the month (Dubois & King and Otter Creek).

John spoke briefly about the new law that Deborah Carroll spoke with him about, it gives the municipalities more power with speed limits and traffic calming devices.

6:55 Health Office Update – Dick was present to give the SB an update on what he is currently working on. He has a couple on-going issues with a landlord in town. One of the properties is being sold, but in case it ends up being a rental unit again – he would like to have something in place with regards to the water situation so as someone else won't be in the same scenario with no water. There is a list of issues that need to be addressed with another property on Route 100B. The Fire Marshall's office has been involved with some of the items, such as fire extinguishers and smoke alarms – which have been corrected. They also deemed a few rooms that have small windows, unusable for bedrooms. Dick said that the sewage system has been fixed and the areas have been disinfected. There is low water pressure and everyone is now getting their hot water. There is still an insulation issue, one of the unit's pipes froze three times last winter. There has not been much cooperation with units 5 & 6 on the bottom floor, there is evidence of a severe mouse problem. Dick asked that the construction debris be cleaned up along the outside of the property and it has not been addressed yet. Dick mentioned a tenant that was shut off from propane and now is using electric heaters. This property does have a maintenance person that Dick has been able to speak with. And there has been a lot of work done after the flood, but the upkeep is not being done. The SB agrees that the town attorney should be consulted with and it should be handled with some urgency.

7:15 Road Department Update – Martin was present to discuss the road department budget, prices in everything have changed drastically. Fuel has gone up, culverts have doubled in price, sand went up \$1.50. Roadside mower rentals went up \$1,500 and then said that if you reserve, you may not get it due to the mower being sold. Audette that has done the road side mowing for a few years, cancelled. Eric Howes is willing to purchase the attachment to help the town out. Eric would be \$75.00 per hour, which is very fair. It is something that needs to go out to bid. Martin has checked pricing on a roadside mower, they are running upwards of \$150,000, but if the town had one it could be used more than once a year. The SB agreed with Eric doing

it this year. Martin let the SB know that Eugene Grandfield is asking for \$1 more per yard in hauling the sand, he did sign the contract. He is continuing to haul for the town, it is unclear if he plans on finishing without the \$1 more. The gravel budget has taken a beating this year with the terrible mud season. Martin mentioned that there are some trim boards on the peak of the town garage that are coming off. He thinks that a 40 ft ladder would reach and the town does not have one, John said that he has one. The Hurdle Road cedar hedges that are in the town ROW are in need of trimming, John as the tree warden offered to let the land owner know about this. Another concern is road sign costs, right now between the post, sign and brackets they are running about \$150, so maybe the fee schedule for that should be revisited.

7:45 continuing Reports & Communications Rae mentioned that he is working on the Class IV roads and LT issues. He met with Denise McCarty regarding the permits that have been approved, they should have gone through the DRB. There was discussion and thoughts on how to handle this situation and rectifying it. Rae feels that things have been missed and it needs to be corrected. He will work on a letter to send to George Welles. Discussion on forming a committee to focus on Class IV roads and LT's was had. Denise suggested making it clear to the public what this committee's role and purpose would be.

8:10 Old Business John brought up the meeting regarding the speed limit being lowered on the Route 2 side of town, that is on Wednesday. Speed change that is being discussed is going from 40 mph down to 35 mph. After this takes place, John, Don and Joyce Manchester are going to pursue getting the rest of Route 2 lowered.

Don mentioned the RFP for the town hall design needing to be put out this week so that something can be ready for the next town meeting. Rae made the motion to send out the RFP that Don had prepared for the town hall renovations. John seconded. All were in favor.

John mentioned the town forestry management plan, he is hoping to have a committee meeting next week.

Cherilyn secured a grant for the North Moretown Sidewalk Feasibility Study. She had the grant agreement for the SB to be approved and signed, as well as a letter of intent.

8:35 Rae **made the motion to approve the SB minutes of 5/16/2022**. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Warrants signed and approved

Payroll #22020 e-checks 3966–3975

Payroll #22022 e-checks 3977-3986

Accounts Payable #22021 checks 23101-23125

Adjourn: Rae **made the motion to adjourn** at 8:40 PM. Callie seconded. All were in favor.