
**Moretown Select Board Meeting
July 18, 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: Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn, Callie Streater, Don Wexler

Guests Present: ORCA, Deborah Feldman, Nicole Melone, Elizabeth Burt, Louisa Wilson, Allison Dellner, Jennifer Durren, Denise McCarty, Captain Bret Meyers, Sheriff Samuel Hill, Sasha Elwell

Meeting called to order by Tom at 6:00 PM

Public Comment Deborah was present to speak with the SB regarding the property owned by Frank Piazza and the issues that have been going on with the violations. She is in hopes that the SB is willing to move forward on the non-compliance issues that Dick Valentinetti has been working on. Deborah is willing to lend a hand in any way she can. She strongly believes that Moretown is a wonderful place to live. She want to be sure that housing is kept affordable, as well as, wanting to see the town continue to thrive.

Nicole is one of the tenants residing at the property owned by Frank. She said that there are seven people that live in that building and they are all working together. They have been threatened with eviction and she has reached out to legal aid for assistance.

Tom let them know that it is all in the health officer and town attorney's hands at the moment. But the SB is willing to help.

6:12 **Set Tax Rate** – Cherilyn was present to go over the numbers for setting the tax rate. She had two scenarios for the SB, one being an increase of .14 cents vs. utilizing the ARPA funds to cover the loss of revenue and an increase of .10 cents. After quick discussion Tom wants to speak with Ron Shems regarding the GMP issue, there could potentially be \$131,000 that would make a difference. The grand list did not go up very much this year, it hasn't had a huge increase since the Gallagher Acres construction is now complete. Tom suggested possibly having a quick ZOOM meeting Thursday morning to set the tax rate. Tom thanked Cherilyn for having all of the information prepared for the SB.

6:22 **Washington County Sheriff Department** – Sheriff Samuel Hill and Captain Bret Meyers were present to speak with the SB regarding law enforcement. Currently they have a contract with Warren and Waitsfield for 16 hours a week for each town. Fayston has voiced interest in contracting services as well. The sheriff's department is a first responder and perform more motor vehicle patrol, but they work closely with VSP.

They explained that eighteen years ago, they had fifteen deputies and now have only five. At this time, they could work four (4) to five (5) hours a week for the town. Charges for that amount of time would be roughly \$180 per week (\$35 per hour plus mileage). With no set schedule, the element of surprise is more effective. Communication with the town is key, they prefer only one person be the point of contact. When there are issues, as much information as possible be given to them: time of day; day of the week; vehicle description and who (if known). They do not look at it as complaining, it's the information that they need. Samuel composes yearly reports for the town report, along with stats.

Both Samuel and Bret are done their terms in January 2023, Marc Poulin is running and he shares the same values.

6:55 **Friends of the Library** – Elizabeth and Louisa were present to obtain approval from the SB for a permanent Story Walk. The plan is to have 20 permanent signs, posted along the nature trail, along the tennis court and ending at the willow tree. They have met with the MES, Rec Committee and have secured funds. Elizabeth spoke with the new Zoning Administrator and it looks like the project would be exempt from obtaining a permit. Their hope is to have it complete and usable by Morefest this year. John made the motion to approve the permanent Story Walk. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

7:09 **Library Trustee** – Allison was present to speak with the SB regarding a creative way to keep the assistant librarian. They would like to use the library donations to supplement her pay and give her a raise. Don made the motion in support of the Library Trustees giving the library donations to the assistant librarian as a raise. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

7:12 **Gallagher Acres President of HOA** – Jennifer was present to see if the SB would consider upgrading the upper loop at Gallagher Acres to a Class III. There are two lower roads that are being maintained by the town. Gallagher Acres is completely built, the HOA hired a company in 2019 to upgrade the upper loop. They have been doing their research in getting the road up to standards so that it could be plowed and taken care of by the town. John mentioned that historically that has not been done. Tom said that is true, but not that they would not be willing to do it in the future. The grand list has been steadily increasing due to the construction at Gallagher Acres. Tom asks that Jennifer allow the SB to digest their request, in the meantime Rae will get with Martin regarding his input.

7:30 **Reports & Communications:** Sasha let the SB know Rae completed the RFP for the River Road paving project. Sasha sent it out to list of companies that Rae asked.

Sasha met with Darlene McCormick regarding the website. When the meeting was done, Darlene was going to contact JB to get more info from him.

Sasha mentioned the laptop for Karen the new Zoning Administrator, as was discussed at her interview meeting with the SB. Tom asked that the budget be checked on to see where things are at, maybe the zoning computer is due for an upgrade. Also, put a call into Butternut Systems to get a quote on a new one.

Rae let the SB know that Joe Gabaree is getting ready to set the concrete for the war memorial the following day.

Rae also spoke to Dubois and they plan on sending the town reimbursement for fixing the sidewalk. Rae plans on contacting Joe Gabaree regarding the portion of the sidewalk that needs to be attended to.

Callie had nothing

Don mentioned the permit application to move the radar sign, as well as the temporary cross walk by the post office.

John met with the Friends of Mad River regarding climate change. He said that it had been good. He is in hopes of the Ridge to Rivers expanding.

Tom spoke with Lee Rogers, he let Sasha know that he could be cancelled from the August meeting. He contacted Tom with questions of the SB allowing an easement for a piece of land he is looking to purchase. This property is land locked, on Cobb Hill Road. As far as the town goes, he will not be pursuing.

Rae **made the motion to approve the SB minutes of July 5**. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

7:40 **New Business**: John said that the garden club is looking to pursue more planting spots in town, one spot was under the Moretown sign.

7:42 **Old Business**: Don would like to review and discuss the town hall management draft plan at the August 1 meeting, as well as go over the proposals for the town hall. He said that it looks like \$25,000 from ARPA Funds would cover the work.

Sasha will email the sign information to the sheriff's department and copy in Rae.

Tom let the SB know that the Fire Department received a \$10,000 donation from the Red Hen tip jar. Stefan is thinking perhaps putting half of it towards the SCBA. Tom wanted to be sure that Red Hen gets a thank you.

Stefan advised Tom that the FD has a \$1,500 repair coming up.

Rae mentioned speaking to Martin regarding the dash cams, he agrees that it would be a good idea.

Rae also mentioned having Rodney write up a statement about what had happened with the complaint a few weeks ago. His thought is so that after anyone on this SB has left (meaning the current members), it would be in his file and he would have an explanation for future.

Warrants signed and approved

Payroll 22029 e-checks 4009 – 4019

Accounts payable 22028 check 23203 – 23232

Adjourn: Tom made the motion to adjourn at 8:09 PM. Callie seconded. All were in favor.