
**Moretown Select Board Meeting
December 5, 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 Streeter, Don Wexler

Guests: MRVTV, Bret Meyer, Marc Poulin, Nicole Melone, William Shepeluk, Clark Amadon, Cherilyn Brown, Stefan Pratt, Sasha Elwell

Tom **called the meeting to order** at 6:00 PM

Public Comment: Clark mentioned a suggestion for the website. Sasha is having a meeting later in the week regarding the website.

Stefan was present to keep the SB informed on his communications with the manufacturers for the tanker truck. He spoke with all three of them earlier in the day and after the first of the year prices are going up between \$12,000-65,000, based on inflation. Stefan told the SB that sealed bids were possible to have for the next SB meeting on December 19. The subject would be circled back to in old business.

Nicole was present to express gratitude to the SB and to Ron Shems for all of the efforts that have been done thus far on the Health Order case with Frank Piazza. Rae advised that Frank needs to get a subcontractor and have it approved by the SB.

6:15 **Sheriff Department** – Bret and Marc were present to give the SB an update on how things have been going since the contract with them has been put in place. They have performed 43 traffic stops, in the time span of July through December. They spoke about rates going up, what they are charging currently is just not in line with what it should be. There are not exact numbers yet, but they will be in contact as soon as they have more information for the town. The rate that the town is at right now is \$32 and it may need to go up as high as \$58, they advised that VSP is at \$87 right now.

6:45 **Budget** – Cherilyn was present to go over more on the budget. Discussion was had on salaries. The cost-of-living increase with the SOV is 5%; the federal government is 4.6%; and social security is 8.7%. After discussion 5% was agreed on, along with increasing the SB discretionary fund to \$10,000 and perform reviews in April.

Quick discussion was had on the library hours increasing to 17 hours a week, with review in April as well. The town hall management portion needs to be tracked, so that can be reviewed at that time.

Cherilyn's duties with the grants and how she is compensated for that work will be reviewed as well.

Discussion on the SB pay was had and it was agreed on increasing it to \$1,000 per member, after being at \$500 for a very long time.

Going forward a fund will be created for surveys, that way the money will start accumulating, just as the bridge & culvert and maintenance funds.

Morefest fireworks will be checked into, it was agreed that this is a successful function that should continue.

7:25 **Town of Waterbury** – Bill Shepeluk was present to speak with the SB regarding the FD agreement, the amount asked of the town has not been increased since 2010. Currently the town pays Waterbury \$2,500 a year for their assistance on the Waterbury side of Moretown, between Cobb Hill and the landfill. They would like to increase this amount to \$3,525 and if coverage is desired up to Lover’s Lane, increase it to \$5,700.

Bill also came to discuss an incident that happened with needing the assistance of the Moretown ACO. VSP responded to a call about two months ago in Duxbury involving a dog bite. The individual picked the dog up in Waterbury and brought it home, where there was another dog. Aggression was displayed over food and territorial jealousy, in the process the individual was bitten. VSP called Stefan in for assistance, Duxbury or Waterbury do not currently have an ACO. Stefan went above and beyond in assisting with getting the dog to the Valley Animal Hospital. The dog was there for twenty-five days and then taken to the Humane Society. Roy Hadden was very light in composing a bill for the stay and actually donated the procedure for spay/neutering the dog. Bill came to ask if the SB would cover \$200 of the \$625 bill. SB agreed that it was fair and will pay the \$200.

7:50 **Wastewater Project Update** – Clark was present to give an update on the project. The committee plans on meeting once a month, there is a meeting with Otter Creek next Thursday. Clark is hoping for the feasibility study to be almost done at that time. Further discussion is to be had on the site location, it needs to be within a quarter mile of the village. The school site has been discussed, but Clark isn’t quite clear on who owns the property and will get with Cherilyn to get that figured out. He advised that with ARPA funds, systems need to be in the ground by 2026, along with other milestones such as the land needs to be purchased by next year. It’s too late in the year for test pits, that would be performed in the spring. Clark is looking at possibly having a public meeting in mid-February.

8:10 **Budget** – quick discussion was had on the additional funding for the Waterbury Fire/Ambulance. It was agreed by all that since there has been no increase since 2010, that it is reasonable (\$3,525). Nothing has been heard from the Mad River Resource Management yet to see what they will be asking from the town this year. Cherilyn brought up having done away with auditors, by statute there needs to be an annual audit done. Pace & Hawley is able to do it for \$10,000 per year, they sent along a contract to be approved and signed to lock that in. The SB agreed to have that service performed by them.

8:30 **Old Business** – continued discussion was had on the tanker, Rae confirmed with Stefan that sealed bids will done.

Don is meeting with Peak on Tuesday.

Quick discussion was had on the River Road paving project.

Reports & Communications: Steve Sharp has reached out confirming that the Back Country Skiing 101 Workshop is still approved. Tom advised that as long as their insurance is in place, it would be fine.

An email from Susan Werntgen was received about the great job that Stefan performed with the flashing lights at each end of town on Halloween.

Sasha let the SB know that she had contact with Lenny's and waiting for a call back regarding setting something up with them for the road crew uniforms/clothing.

Rae mentioned speaking with a logger doing some work on Lynch Hill and wondering if they had submitted a road maintenance permit to the town yet. Sasha had not received anything yet.

An email came in inquiring about the Mad River By-way signs (at the town office and town hall), needing some TLC. Don had dealt with that project before, so he will reach out to the folks that inquired about it.

There was a request from the school nurse at MES about using the town forest for a school overnight camping trip for the kids. It was suggested that the email be forwarded over to the recreation committee.

Don made the **motion to approve the SB minutes** from 11/21/2022. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Warrants signed and approved:

Accounts payable 22050 checks 23548 – 23563

Accounts payable 22051 checks 23564 – 23580

Accounts payable 22053 checks 23583 – 23602

Payroll 22052 e-checks 4125 – 4135 checks 23581 – 23582

Adjourn: Tom made the motion to adjourn at 9:18 PM. Rae seconded. All were in favor.