
**Moretown Select Board Meeting
January 17, 2023 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, Don Wexler, Callie Streeter

Guests Present: Laura Arnesen, Jennifer Hill, Carla Lewis, Susan Werntgen, Elizabeth Burt, Robin Campbell, Jesse Gillette, Megan Nedzinski, Chris & Cory Stephenson, Diana Costello, Deborah Feldman, Sarah Nussbaum, Nicole Melone, Cherilyn Brown, Sasha Elwell

Meeting called to order by Tom at 6:00 PM

Public Comment: Robin was present to introduce himself as a candidate to run for the Select Board in 2023. Rae Washburn is not running this year.

6:05 **MRVRD** – Laura was present to give the SB an update on what they have been working on over the last year. There is a project being worked on at the intersection of Route 17 & Route 100, a bridge going over the Mill Brook. It's all being done with the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Grant. They have done work on their website and there is a new dog park is going in at the Brooks Field in Warren in 2023. Their focus is on trails, recreation and nature. Laura thanked the SB for the town's continued support of \$2,250 for the recreation park.

6:15 **Town Hall Presentation** – Megan and Jesse from VIA were present to go over the town hall design possibilities and answer any questions. The presentation covered the project overview & goals, the design and budget, available grants that are coming up, and the next steps, along with a request from the SB. The project is to address issues that are going on at the town hall and update safety/code issues, address accessibility and fix the water issues that have been on going over the years. The design shows improvements on the main floor as well as the basement. Reconfiguring the bathrooms and kitchen, but not moving any plumbing, as well as reconfiguring the staircase with the goal of not changing any of the historical value of the building. The overall project is estimated to be \$800,000 with a goal of utilizing grants that are available. The SB was asked to formally recognize the library being homed in the town hall. This subject has been spoken about a few times before. Much discussion was had on this and a few SB members just want to be sure that they are fulfilling what has been said before and being sure that the towns people have their say on a vote. This discussion is not in opposition, it is to clarify for the towns people. All of the SB is in favor of the library staying in the town hall, this move has been positive for the town. This will be discussed more at the first February SB meeting.

7:20 **Budget** – Cherilyn was present to finalize the budget, there were just a few items to go over. Guardrail, the Montpelier Ambulance and the Washington County Tax budgets. Tom had

asked that some footwork was done on the surrounding towns and what they are giving their employees for raises, Cherilyn reached out to other towns and it ranged from five to eight and a half percent. After quick discussion the SB agreed on seven percent raises across the board, originally it was five percent.

John **made the motion to approve** the budget as presented for 2023 totaling \$1,455,103.29. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Quick discussion on Articles for town meeting were gone over, a **special meeting** on January 30 at 8:00 AM will finalize those items to be voted on.

Tom asked that Stefan have Cherilyn help him with applying for a grant for SCBA gear for the fire department. Stefan said that he would be willing to work with her on that. Discussion was had on the possibility of purchasing one pack a year over the next three years and paying for it out right each year so that there is no note on it. Or even just purchasing one unit this year and having enough to get through for a few years. Other Articles discussed were a new dump truck, maintenance reserve fund, bridge and culvert fund, surveys, as well as the "floor" articles. Since the survey fund has not been started, there needs to be an article to establish it, as well as putting funds into it.

Quick discussion was had on NOW (Neck of the Woods) and being put on the ballot as well. When they came to the SB asking for ARPA Funds, the SB agreed to put the request to the voters.

8:35 Reports & Communications: Sasha let the SB know that CVRPC is able to monitor six roads for the speed tape in the spring. The tape is put out for approximately a week.

The sheriff's dept reached out to the town with an idea for the speeding in the village, designating a school zone with signage and doubling fines during school hours. The SB agreed that it should be pursued.

Rae brought up the waste water project and they are looking at prospective locations.

Rae mentioned the FRC recommending to the SB that the purchase of a performance bond on the tanker be utilized for the tanker purchase.

Rae let the SB know that he and Martin met with a logger regarding a bridge on Herring Brook. They are willing to do some work on it for their logging job, it's in the class IV section and it will benefit the town. He is expecting a road maintenance permit to be submitted to the town.

Don will work on getting hard copies of the town hall plans to the other SB members and on the website as well.

John mentioned speaking with the new superintendent and also said that the school board has gone through quite a few changes.

Quick discussion was had on the blinking speed limit sign not working.
John **made the motion to approve the SB minutes** of 01/03/2023. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Warrants signed and approved:

Payroll 23003 e-checks 4161 – 4170
Accounts Payable 23004 checks 23647 – 23683

Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage approved

Adjourn: Tom made the motion to adjourn at 8:53 PM. Callie seconded. All were in favor.