
**Moretown Select Board Meeting
May 1, 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, Callie Streeter, Don Wexler, Robin Campbell

Guests Present: ORCA, Gretchen Baker (United), Martin Cameron, Neal Mostov, Nicole Melone, Doug Reed, Dick Valentinetti, Mike Brignano, Stefan Pratt, Sasha Elwell

Meeting called to order by Tom at 6:00 PM

Public Comment: Neal was present to inquire about the von Trapp treehouses. He found out that it's in the environmental court. Tom advised that the zoning administrator will be made aware of his inquiry.

Nicole was present to check in on the situation with Frank Piazza, the tenants are still having issues. Tom advised that he spoke with Dick Valentinetti and Ron Shems earlier in the day and that the SB planned on going into Executive Session to discuss the matter, with the hopes that there will be a decision made on exiting Executive Session.

Doug dropped off the drawing of the parking lot (reconfiguration) that he had spoken with Don about previously.

6:15 **Grader** Discussion – Gretchen Baker with United Construction was present to answer any questions regarding a new grader. The Sales rep from Cat was invited to attend the meeting, but was unable to join. He is willing to answer any questions that the SB may have though.

Discussion was had on the amount of hours the existing grader has and when trade in should be considered. The town is right at the time it should be traded, 8,500 hours, and 9,000 is where a graders trade in value starts to decline. In 2014, there were a lot of emission changes that went into effect and in 2027 there are even more coming. There have been a lot of upgrades to the electronics, also improving the ergonomics in controls and the sloping abilities. Gretchen is able to lock in the trade in value with us so that number will not change. Ordering a new grader is approximately five months out.

Quick discussion was had regarding having formal bids back to the town for June 20, for a Special Vote on either June 20 or 27 for the grader.

6:35 Sand – Martin also discussed the sand situation with Varin's and Northeast Material. It looks like this year may be Varin's last year being open. They have raised their prices and their hours have narrowed down quite a bit. Varin's is open Monday through Thursday 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM and are planning on being closed June 12th – July 4th, leaving a small window for hauling sand. Martin spoke with Northeast Material and they have a manufactured sand

available. The town has been getting 3/4" through Varin's and Northeast has 1/2" – there are some concerns of this not being as reliable in an ice storm. Martin spoke with Donahue, the lowest bidder for hauling sand and at best they think that they could possibly haul three loads of sand from Varin's a day, but that is with making sure that their truck is at the gate when Varin's opens. Tom suggested reaching out to them again and see what their take on changing the vendor is, if they would still be willing to go with the contract price.

Martin had not heard from Pike this week, but with the weather, he is doubtful that the paving will be done on River Road this week.

Martin inquired about the parking lot/storm water project, he wanted to know if the plan was for the town crew to dig up the parking lot. John confirmed that yes, that is the plan. Martin has concerns with water and electrical lines that run under the parking lot. John was under the impression that Rae Washburn had been in contact with Martin about this part of the project. John will follow up with Rae.

Martin let the SB know that he had spoken to Allegiance regarding the 2018 dump truck. They put another head gasket in along with yet another EGR cooler and now for a third time, the head gasket is gone again. Martin was assured that they are going to warranty the repairs.

Martin said that his truck wasn't going to pass inspection because of the tires, so they put Shawn's onto Martin's truck and when Shawn's truck gets back a new set of tires will need to be purchased. At the moment, a set of tires for a dump truck is running \$5,600.

Last week Rodney's truck was down, the body wasn't able to dump. So, Martin called Nick Pizzale for help hauling for two days.

Weather permitting, next week the road crew is going to start ditching and addressing some culvert issues. There is one culvert on the Moretown Common Road being replaced, the road will be closed for about a week.

Tom brought up speaking with Mike Brignano regarding his road maintenance permit that was approved last year. Mike would like to extend it. Tom had Martin go take a look at what Mike has done so far, and Martin thinks that they have done a good job with it. Tom agreed to extending the permit another year.

7:01 John **made the motion to go into Executive Session** under provisions of Title 1, 313 (a) (1) (F) confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing the professional legal services to the body. Callie seconded. All were in favor. Tom invited Dick Valentinetti to stay.

7:39 John **made the motion to exit Executive Session**. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Ron Shems was consulted with in Executive Session regarding the situation, along with Dick Valentinetti.

Action taken: John **made the motion to move forward to seek receivership of financial discovery**. Robin seconded. All were in favor. Ron will be sending a letter to Frank Piazza's attorney, making sure there are funds to pay for this. The process will not be quick, this will take up to eight weeks.

7:41 **ARPA Funds** – Discussion was had on the next phase of the town hall and the amount of money that is actually needed. Clarification on whether or not \$90,000 was “set” aside for the lift at the town hall was had. This was a recommendation from the ARPA Committee, the SB had not made a motion on doing this. The motion that was made 04/17/2023 to authorize VIA to proceed to the next phase, was rescinded by Don and John seconded. All were in favor. Don **made the motion to authorize VIA to proceed to the next phase for \$22,545 using ARPA Funds.** John seconded. All were in favor. Tom let the SB know that Cherilyn applied for the MERP grant for \$4,000. More will be discussed about that when CVRPC comes to the next SB meeting.

8:20 **Reports & Communications:** Robin brought up the personnel policy and the section on jury duty, he suggested this be the wording:

If a town employee is called to service as a juror or witness on a scheduled work day the town will compensate the employee their regular rate of pay up to but not exceeding their scheduled hours for that day.

After quick discussion, it was agreed to correct it to read that. Sasha will update and have for the next meeting.

The updated ACO from Heather Devine was received and Sasha will forward it onto everyone for proofing.

Cherilyn asked that copies of the budget status report to be distributed to the SB members, Sasha was sure they all got a copy.

John missed the FRC meeting, but let the SB know that they recommend not using ARPA Funds for the grader.

Old Business: Don brought up the town hall cleaning and it was agreed on to let Cory have two to three hours a week in addition to regular hours, for the next two weeks, to allow figuring out the cleaning situation.

John and Don have a meeting with District 6 regarding the RFSF sign being moved near the gravel pit.

Don brought up the 1111 permit that was submitted to Ed Pierce with SOV, there are a few things that need to be addressed before it can be approved. John spoke with Chris Hunt regarding this and these items shouldn't be holding up the crosswalk.

Quick discussion was had on the complaint of items in Shane Grace's yard. Sasha will touch base with Dick Valentinetti regarding this, to see if he has spoken to him.

John had the RFP for the Clerk of the Works on the Stormwater Project. Sasha will forward that out.

New Business: Tom asked that everyone start thinking about the Savings Reserve Fund. This fund was set up to offset the tax rate and it's possibly a good time to utilize it.

An email was received from a Cobb Hill resident regarding turning a portion of Cobb Hill Road into a private road. After discussing it, it was decided that it can't be done, due to it being a through road that goes to the other side of Moretown.

John received an email from Nancy Blodgett with concerns on a tree that is in the town right of way, they think it is going to fall towards their house. The tree was under cut when ditching was done a few years back. It's now looking like it should come down. John has spoken with Northfield Electric, and it isn't a tree that they are concerned with getting the wires. John needs to double check and be sure who's property it is on, before any tree service is contacted for a quote.

John **made the motion to approve the SB minutes** 04/17/2023. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Warrants signed and approved:

Accounts Payable 23021 checks 23878 – 23904

Payroll 23020 check 23877 and e – checks 4248 – 4257

Adjourn: Tom made the motion to adjourn at 9:12 PM. Callie seconded. All were in favor.