
**Moretown Select Board Meeting
August 7, 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: Andrew Whitehead, John Summers, Rae Washburn, MRVTV, ORCA, Cherilyn Brown, Martin Cameron, Cheryl Brown, Colin Nohl, Stefan Pratt, Cory & Chris Stephenson, Clark Amadon, Sasha Elwell

Meeting called to order by Tom at 6:00 PM

Public Comment: Andrew was present to speak with the SB about reclassification of Bidwell Road. To upgrade from Class IV B to Class IV A. They are willing to invest material and have the road graded by the town once a year. The SB agreed to upgrading to Class IV A, Martin will be meeting with Andrew regarding this. John **made the motion** to reclassify Bidwell Road from Class IV B to Class IV A with the appropriate fill that the land owners will provide and the town will grade once a year. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

John S was present to comment on the signage for the covered bridges in Northfield. The blinking sign on the Moretown Mountain Road is visual pollution in his opinion. Martin pointed out that the Town of Northfield came to the Moretown SB for permission. Tom pointed out that the signs have been in place for about six weeks and this is the first complaint. After discussion on this, Martin will get with the Town of Northfield and see what could be changed, maybe it could be activated by approaching vehicles.

Colin was present to commend the road crew for the work they have done on his road (Brownsville) after the flood.

6:15 **Tax Rate** – Cherilyn was present to go over the figures for setting the tax rate. The municipal tax rate went up to .55, this was .51 last year.

Residential tax rate – 2.4945

Non-Residential tax rate – 2.4156

John **made the motion** to accept the tax rate as presented for residential rate of 2.4945 and the non-residential rate of 2.4156. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

6:20 **FEMA** – Cheryl was present to speak with the SB and Martin regarding procedures for FEMA. Tom advised that Cheryl has stepped up to assist with this since she has the experience from Tropical Storm Irene. FEMA will cover 75% reimbursement of eligible costs and another 10% will be added due to the town being up to date on various things. Making the town share of this disaster 5-10%. Moretown is eligible once a FEMA rep comes to the town. Projects under

\$250,000 can be restored to pre-flood condition. Cheryl advised Martin to contact Ben Rose with the SOV regarding Hydro testing, it's looking like mitigation will be needed on Lover's Lane. Martin did meet with Jarod Borg – Stream Alterations Engineer. Cheryl let all know that for the projects that are going to cost more than \$250,000 FEMA procurement process needs to be followed to the T and it needs to go out to bid. Discussion was had on getting engineers and contractors in to look at Lover's Lane to get a more specific price so that the town knows where the repairs stand. Cheryl advised that the town has 18-months to finish all projects. Cheryl has been putting together all of the expenses into a spreadsheet, that is reimbursable, including pay along with the fringe benefits.

6:57 **Grader** – Martin is recommending purchasing the CAT grader. There is one that will be ready for delivery in October, (a contractor ordered one and then cancelled it). This grader is a 150 which is comparable to the JD the town has right now, the cost is \$394,900. With the need of extra use on the current grader, the circle is getting worse in the last few weeks. The town will be keeping the original plow, it will work with the new one and CAT is throwing in the fenders, a \$10,000 value. Robin **made the motion** to go with the CAT 150 for \$394,900. John seconded. All were in favor.

7:04 **Town Hall** – Cory was present to speak with the SB regarding the custodial position. She has advertised it twice on FPF, with no luck. After some thought, she came up with two different scenarios to ask the SB. Option 1 would be to have the assistant librarian add two hours a week and raise her pay to \$20 per hour. Option 2 would be to find someone to do the cleaning at all three town buildings. Brief discussion was had and all agreed that if there is someone already working for the town that is willing to do the task, to go ahead and utilize this employee. Tom **made the motion** to accept Cory's recommendation of the existing assistant librarian (option 1) performing the custodial duties adding two hours to her schedule at \$20 per hour.

7:25 **Wastewater Update** – Clark was present to give the SB an update on what's going on. The grant is waiting on the test pits to be done. As of right now the two locations to be tested are on Pony Farm Road (Stephenson's) and behind the school near South Hill Road. It's possible to run pipe from the village underground, it would need to be bored up hill from behind the school if the location near South Hill Road is a possibility. It was agreed that the test pits should be done near South Hill Road. Utilizing Poulin to do this, would be a better option than using the road crew due to how busy they are. Discussion was had on landowner permission slips and the wording that is on the form. John **made the motion** to allow the Wastewater Committee to go ahead and do the test pits. Robin seconded. All were in favor.

8:04 **Mountain Road tree** – Regarding the tree that was under dug on the Moretown Mountain Road, on the Martin's property and the concerns of it falling on a neighboring house was discussed. Three quotes for taking it down were obtained.

Tree Hugger - \$1,500

Snapping Turtle - \$3,000

Tree Works - \$5,400

The SB agreed to just have the tree dropped, the landowner would like it left. Tom **made the motion** to use the Tree Hugger at \$1,500. Robin seconded. All were in favor. John will take care of updating the residents.

8:10 **Reports & Communications:** Discussion was had on Karen Sauther's letter of resignation. It will not be accepted at the 8/7 meeting, Tom would like to speak with her and then he will be getting with the Planning Commission on it.

Paula Woods sent a letter of interest in wanting to continue on the DRB due to her term being up. Tom so **moved** to reappoint Paula Woods. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Robin brought up the ACO and what is next, this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Robin brought up Diane that lives on Terrace Lane and the trash that was discussed at the last meeting. Robin will check into it a bit more.

Don advised the town hall design is moving into the next phase, what will need to be done next is a typographical survey and they run in the range of \$1,500 – 2,000. Don has reached out to two people regarding this. Discussion was had on an RFP for a construction manager, if there is one in place, they do the actual process of obtaining the bids. It was agreed that Don could go ahead and get that out, there would be no obligation on the town to get that information.

Don brought up the library sharing the town ZOOM account, Tom agreed that that would be fine.

Karen Horn reached out to Don regarding the purchase of shades for the meeting room. Tom asked that prices be obtained and this purchase be put into the 2024 budget.

Four liquor licenses were approved for Farmhouse Flowers.

The annual Duxbury Fire contract was signed, as well as the annual MOU with HUUSD.

There were **Errors & Omissions** submitted for approval and were approved as follows:

Jordan von Trapp, 408-127-10937 changed from \$178,800 to \$275,300 with a difference of \$96,000 – permits for two tree houses were approved in environmental court.

Natessa Cournoyer, 408-127-10704 changed from \$165,900 to \$149,400 with a difference of - 16,500 – was assigned acreage for 408-127-10738, should .72 Ac

Frog and Toad LLC, 408-127-10738 changed from \$11,500 to \$46,200 with a difference of 34,700 – was assigned acreage for 408-127-10704, should 2.9 Ac

8:30 **Old Business** – Tom mentioned Free Wheelin', this will be discussed further at the next meeting.

8:31 **New Business** – there was none

Callie **made the motion** to approve the SB minutes of 07/17/2023. Don seconded. All were in favor.

Warrants signed and approved:

Payroll 23033 e – checks 4321 – 4331

Accounts Payable 23034 check 24072 – 24106

Adjourn: Tom **made the motion** to adjourn at 8:39 PM. Callie seconded. All were in favor.