
**Moretown Select Board Meeting
January 16, 2024 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, Don Wexler, Callie Streeter via Zoom, Robin Campbell via Zoom, not present John Hoogenboom

Guests: MRVTV, Cherilyn Brown, Chris Stephenson, Michelle Beard, Lee Anne Martin, Laura Arnesen with MRVRD, Cory Ayotte, Jennifer Hill, Peter Oliver with MRVRD, Alice Rodgers with MRVRD, John Burns, Sasha Elwell

Meeting called to order by Tom at 6:00 PM

Public Comment: there was none

6:02 **MRV Rec District** – Laura was present to go over their budget and the town’s contribution as well as their request of Moretown to join their board. Moretown’s contribution went up to \$3K for 2024. They are requesting that a Moretown resident join their board, with this the contribution would be discounted as well as open up more grant opportunities for Moretown. Two projects that were worked on in 2023 through the MRVRD were the dog park in Warren and the irrigation system at the Rec fields off Airport Road.

6:22 **Morefest Committee** – Michelle and Lee Anne were present to go over the Bylaws and Event Policy that the whole committee worked on last fall and presented to the SB. Each section of the documents were read through and it was decided that five members (consisting of having one from the PTO) is what works, especially for voting purposes. The committee will be composed of a chair, vice chair and secretary. Tom **moved to approve** the event policy and committee bylaws presented to the SB. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

At the next meeting the SB will appoint the committee members. Quick discussion was had on the fireworks and North Star has mentioned that the prices will be going up substantially.

6:55 **2024 Budget** – Cherilyn was present to wrap up the numbers on the 2024 Budget. Tom had Cherilyn put in the 5% COLA across the board for all employees. The SB plans on meeting with all employees to conduct reviews between now and after Town Meeting. There will be more money put into the SB discretionary fund for the purpose of merit raises following reviews. Discussion was had on the librarian’s hours and it was agreed that she could be increased to 20 hours a week, with the assistant being at 11 hours a week. Washington County Tax wasn’t as high as anticipated, along with the dispatching for the FD. There is an amount for the Stormwater maintenance that was not in the budget before, but per the MOU with the school, they will be responsible for half of that amount. Zoning has gone up due to Carol contributing to the Town Plan. With her working on this, it cuts down on not having to have a consultant work on it. There was a line added for additional FEMA consultant, hopefully this amount will be reimbursable through FEMA. There will be an article put on the ballot for Town

Meeting on the turn out gear for the Fire Department. Quick discussion was had on raising the Town Office building maintenance to \$4,500 due to a few items that need attention in the spring. The back door is sticking and the base of the railings outside are getting rusty. Quick discussion was had on adding \$3,500 to the Road Department Highway purchases for the portable hose maker that Martin spoke about when he came to the SB meeting in November. It was agreed that it should be added to the budget as well. Tom **made the motion** to accept the budget as discussed and presented for 2024 in the amount of \$1,646,965.57. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Discussion continued on **Town Meeting** – Articles as follows:

Increasing the spending limit on single purpose expenditures, increasing the \$5K limit. Reasoning on this is due to inflation, everything has gone up and a replacement of a radiator on a truck, the part alone is nearly \$5K.

Sidewalk article for \$95K, this project needs to proceed or what has been spent so far will need to be paid back to the SOV.

Survey Fund; Maintenance Reserve Fund and Bridge and Culvert Funds will be put on as well to continue building those funds up.

Town Meeting – will take place at MES for 9:00 AM March 5th. Pre-Town Meeting will take place at MES at 7:00 PM, following the regular SB meeting at 6:00 PM.

8:07 **Reports & Communications:** Tom advised that Rodney's truck should be back on Tuesday. As well as advising that there was some OT over the weekend due to the snow storms.

Quick discussion was had on extended warranties for the equipment.

Don asked if there was any update on Frank Piazza and Tom advised that there is a proposal being put together for receivership.

A letter came into the SB requesting forgiveness on their homestead declaration penalty for 2023. After quick discussion the SB approved forgiving this amount.

8:42 Don **made the motion** to approve the SB minutes of 01/02/2024. Callie seconded. All were in favor. Don **made the motion** to approve the SB minutes of 12/04/2023. Robin seconded. All were in favor.

8:44 **Old Business** – there was none

8:45 **New Business** – there was none

Warrants approved and signed (by two present members, a third will try to make it in to the office Wednesday morning to sign as well, giving the majority approval):

Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage

Payroll 24004 e – checks 4449 – 4458

Accounts Payable 24005 checks 24526 – 24553

Payroll 24006 e – checks 4459 – 4462

Adjourn: Tom **made the motion** to adjourn at 8:48 PM. Callie seconded. All were in favor.