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**Moretown Select Board Meeting**  
**February 20, 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**

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**Members Present:** Tom Martin, Callie Streeter, Don Wexler, Robin Campbell (not present, John Hoogenboom)

**Guests:** MRVTV, Michelle Redmond, Dara Torre, Tom Bushman, Cory Stephenson, Gerry & Wilma Maynard via phone, Sasha Elwell

**Meeting** called to order by Tom at 6:00 PM

**Public Comment:** Gerry called in to speak with Michelle regarding the “dip” in the road on Route 100B, where the culvert was replaced last summer. When trucks hit it, the dishes in their cupboard shake, as well as noticing a few cracks in their drywall that are new. Michelle is going to schedule a site visit, she requested their contact information, Sasha will get that to her. Gerry also mentioned wanting a round a bout at the intersection of Route 100B and 100, he doesn't think that it would happen in his lifetime, but he wanted to mention it. Michelle is adding his comments to her notes.

Cory was present to speak with the SB regarding her Family Medical Leave. There is a grant that has a deadline and she wants to be able to work on it. That isn't possible while out on Leave, so she is withdrawing her request for that time off so that this can be worked on. The SB is willing to allow her to cancel her Family Medical Leave. She advised that she is going to continue with the sub that she has in place and work within the library budget.

6:10 **AOT District 6** – Michelle was present at the request of the SB, there have been some topics over the last few months that they wanted to address. Tom thanked her for all of the work that she does with the town, let her know that it's appreciated. There is a spot on the road on Route 100B, just passed the old library building that has erosion going on. That is on Michelle's radar and they plan on fixing it in the spring. A spot on Route 100B across from the end of Dickerson Road has some erosion happening as well, that was pointed out to her too. Safety pulling off Freeman Hill Road was brought up, wondering if there could possibly be some blasting done to make visibility better when turning onto Route 100B. Michelle advised that the department has a “wish list” that they add to and when projects come up and there may be funding for those items, those items are looked into deeper. The catch basins in the village were spoken about, the concern is having them clogged (dirt is gathering and piling up). She let everyone know that there is a culvert on the Route 2 side of town that will be replaced this summer or possibly next summer, it is one that is being upgraded. She reminded everyone that grant applications are due April 15<sup>th</sup>.

6:22 **Dara Torre** was present at the request of the SB to give a legislative update to everyone. There are many concerns with the tax rate and Dara advised that what everyone is hearing isn't quite precise, there are still things in the works. The concern of losing some tax revenue with

the Hazard Mitigation Buyouts was discussed briefly. The question of Airbnb's being taxed differently was brought up, there has been no solution for that yet. Dara was asked about the solid waste bill that is being worked on, she will check into that. Dara plans on attending Town Meeting.

6:50 **OWL Q & A** – Tom B. was present to answer any questions there were about the OWL and give some tips on how to better use it. One thing was to move the projector further away from the OWL, the fan on the projector could potentially be an issue. Tom plans on attending a future meeting through ZOOM to see how it sounds on the other end of it. He also said that they have two different products coming out, a bar model that gives a view of a "fly-on-the-wall" perspective and a new professional series.

7:10 **MRRMA** (Mad River Resource Management Alliance) - Tom **made the motion** to accept the agreement. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

**Reports & Communications:** Cherilyn left budget status reports for the SB.

Mike Strojney contacted the office and would like permission to work with Mad River Consulting on the Recreation portion of the town website. The SB had no problem with that.

The Pace & Hawley audit came back and the final paperwork needed the SB approval, everything looked really good.

Dubois & King paperwork needed to be signed for the Jones Brook Road culvert replacement.

Vt Route 100 on 100 Relay asked for continued permission for their event in August. The SB was fine with that, only asked that the signs are picked up after the event is over. Sasha will let them know.

Don plans on circling back with David Stapleton about the Class IV/LT committee after Town Meeting.

Quick discussion was had on having a rep from Senator Welch's office to a meeting, maybe March/April. Tom would like to have an agenda in place so there is organization to it, come up with solutions to the issues the town is facing and ask for assistance with the solutions.

The Eclipse (April 8<sup>th</sup>) was touched on, the library is having an event at the Recreation fields. Don is going to follow up with them on the advertisement – there needs to be permission granted for a bon fire due to the time of year it is.

Don said that he was meeting with Cherilyn and Cory the next day regarding the town hall grant, they are getting really close with the project. They are hoping that the grants cover most of the cost, at this point it is looking like the project overall will cost \$1.2 to \$1.6 million. The grant that is being worked on right now is due March 12<sup>th</sup>. Don is very hopeful with this, there is \$26 million available and Moretown is looking for a little over one million. The work will need to be completed by 2026. Don asked the SB for permission to use the remaining \$1,419.54 left on the MERPA grant for the cooling design for the town hall. Tom **made the motion** to use the \$1,419.54 remaining of the MERPA grant for the cooling design. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Discussion was had on the next few meetings, the next one will be a quick one before Pre-Town Meeting; March 11 will be a quick organizational meeting and the following one (March 18), Tom would like to have each employee have a 20-minute block to go over reviews. April 1<sup>st</sup> the Forest Management will be part of the regular SB meeting. Tom advised that the deed and paperwork has been handed over to the Town Attorney to dig into further on this to be sure that it is all clearly stated who owns what, since there has been questions brought up on it.

7:47 Robin **made the motion** to approve the SB minutes of 02/05/2024. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

7:49 **Old Business:** there was none

7:50 **New Business:** Tom let everyone know that there will be a heart screening, free of charge at the school the same time as Town Meeting, he wants to be sure that it is put up on FPF.

**Warrants** approved and signed: Payroll 24009 e – checks 4476 – 4485 check # 24579 and Accounts Payable 24010 checks 24580 - 24628

**Adjourn:** Tom **made the motion** to adjourn at 7:59 PM. Robin seconded. All were in favor.