

**Town of Moretown
Selectboard Minutes
11/20/2017**

Board Members present: John Hoogenboom, Jason Aronowitz, Tom Martin and Tom Badowski

Board Members not present: Rae Washburn

Guest present: Catrina Brackett, Cheryl Brown, Steven Smith, JB Weir and Martin Cameron.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Tom Martin.

General Public Comment: None at this time.

Town Administrators report: Cheryl reported we have not received a signed grant agreement yet for the catch basins. We are also still waiting to hear if the state will combine this grant with the sidewalk grant. Cheryl asked if the board would like to meet with Diane Snelling the chairman of the environmental board for the state of Vermont. Tom M said Ron was already contacting her. She also mentioned the mowing bid needed to be decided on. Cheryl also asked the board if they wanted an article asking the voters to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money from the towns savings reserve to pay lawful debts and expenses, in anticipation of collection of taxes rather than borrow from a bank. The Selectboard asked Cheryl to prepare an article.

Reports and Communication:

John reported on attending the MRV annual town Leadership meeting. There was a presentation by Ridge to River and the MRV rec district. A member of the steering committee asked John if Moretown would be interested in becoming a member, with a membership fee of \$42,000 per year.

Deb Feldman sent a request to volunteer as a non-voting member of the Planning Commission. **Motion:** John made a motion to accept her request. The motion was seconded by Tom B. All voted in favor.

The Waterbury Ambulance service requested a member of the Selectboard attend a meeting on Tuesday 11/21/2017 @ 3pm in Waterbury to discuss expanding their services. No board members will be able to attend.

Budget work commenced on several departments including the Town office section, Town Hall and Library. Tom B spoke about the Town hall usage and suggested putting out a request for proposal to have a private entity take over the Town Hall. He will bring in an example of a request for proposal (RFQ) for the board to see. Tom B also thought it was a good idea for the Library to move into the downstairs of the Town Hall. The board asked Cheryl to put together of a list of Town own properties.

Fire Department Business: Steve Smith was present to discuss the Fire Department Budget. He spoke to the Selectboard that the fire department has proposed an article for about \$140,000. Steve spoke about 3 major things the department needs. First was radios and pagers. Two members currently don't have pagers because there were no extras when they joined. Also, the radios they have used for about 5 years no longer work properly. During the last two calls Steve couldn't reach the guys in the building. The company they bought them from is no longer in business and they were an off-brand model. Steve would like to go through Radio North for new radios at \$1600 each. The brand is Motorola and several of the area Fire Departments use them. The total would be \$9900 for radios and pagers. The next item he spoke about was SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus), currently the department has two different types that don't fit the buddy system. Also, they don't work with other area departments systems at all. The total cost for new SCBA would be \$84,000. The final request was for new Gear, helmets, gloves, pants, jacket for a total cost of \$45,000. The grand total of the article would be \$138,900. The board suggested Steve speak to his vendors about selling the old equipment to help offset this cost. The Selectboard must approve any article to be put on the town meeting ballot.

Old Business:

Grow Compost: Zoning Administrator JB Weir sent an email to the board and was present tonight to discuss Grow Compost. JB has in contact with Stephanie Smith, who stated the cultivation of cannabis **IS NOT** considered "agriculture" by the Department of Ag. Thus, it is not exempted as an Accepted Ag Practice. Cultivation of Cannabis is regulated solely by the Department of Public Safety.

The Selectboard cannot direct the ZA how to classify a zoning application.

JB also stated, the Exec. Director of the VT Patients Alliance (Monique McHenry) stated to me via email the following, which I did not ask for: "Yes, the greenhouse will be for agriculture, but I am not sure if the Agency of Agriculture considers *Cannabis* grown under VSA Title 18 Chapter 86 as an approved agricultural product, as we are regulated by the Department of Public Safety. I believe the Agency of Agriculture considers *Cannabis* grown under VSA Title 6 Chapter 34 an approved agriculture product, as they regulate that industry. We are, and will continue to grow *Cannabis* both under VSA Title 18 Chapter 86 and Title 6 Chapter 34 at [2016 US-2](#). We are licensed by both the Department of Public Safety and the Agency of Agriculture to do this at [2016 US-2](#). Please let me know if you have any questions, and what we can do to facilitate the process of installing another greenhouse at [2016 US-2](#)." When I posited this to Stephanie Smith she explained to me that the cultivation of "hemp" can be regulated by the Dep't of Ag, but the cultivation of cannabis is not. What I read from Ms. McHenry's statement is that GC is already growing both at the site. I am not sure if this is an existing greenhouse or not. Perhaps GC constructed it without our knowledge whilst under their Ag designation, but now it is being used for growing either hemp or cannabis or both. Note that the difference between hemp and cannabis is the amount of THC, hemp has very little and is used for clothing etc. Cannabis is a different animal. Jb wanted the board to be aware of an application forth coming from VT Patients Alliance. The was a discussion concerning the zoning regulations and how the application will be perceived by JB.

Unapproved minutes of SB Meeting 11/20/2017

Highway Department Business- Martin was present to go over the highway department budget. Stefan Pratt's hours and responsibilities were discussed. He will be a temporary seasonal employee with no more the 30 hours a week. Martin is still working on getting number for the excavator.

Approval of 11/13/2017 meeting minutes: A motion was made by Tom B to approve the minutes as written. Jason seconded the motion. All agreed.

New Business: None at this time.

Review Documents for Approval: A memo was submitted by Cherilyn as follows.

"This memo is to request permission to transfer the following: \$37,334.70 from liability line "Due to the Treasures Office" to the General Fund Highway revenue account. "AOT Box Culvert." This is money that was received from AOT on 1/23/2013 for the box culvert on Ward Brook. These funds were discussed in the past Selectboard meeting on 7/17/2017 and it was decided it was not going to be paid back unless the state sends an invoice requesting payment.

-\$23,091.43 to be moved to General fund for expenses in fund "Town Office" for previous year expenses. The figure is less than what is showing on balance sheet, (-\$27403) as payments from FEMA came into the town in 2017.

\$160,000 from General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund to pay back from the 2016 borrowing."

The board approved and Tom M signed the memo.

Errors and Omission from the listers for board approval as follows:

"The board of listers request approval to make the following changes to the 2017 Grand List under Errors and Omissions, Title 32, Section 4261:

Owners name: Living Tree Alliance LLC
Reason: Change parcel ID#
 No change in value

Owner: Goodyear, Susan et al.
Reason: Change Parcel ID#
 No Change in Value

Own Name: Stauff, Gerald
Reason: Removal of Mobile Hole
Change in value -\$6200

Owners name: Mazzilli, Anthony and Elisabeth
 and Mazzilli, Anthony and Yvette
Reasons: Change Inactive to Active Parcel
Change in value: +\$17,800

The Board approved and Tom M signed.

Warrents: AP 19196-19207

Tom M made a motion to adjourn at 8:50pm. Tom B seconded the motion. All agreed