

**Town of Moretown
Selectboard Meeting
11/18/2019**

Board Members Present: Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn, Jason Aronowitz, Callie Streeter was not present.

Guests Present: Donna Stackhouse, Sean Sullivan, Gabriel Gilman, Emily Wood, Cory Stephenson, Ray Munn, Richard Valentinetti, Katie Martin, Hadley Laskouski, Stefan Pratt, Deborah Feldman, Mike Woods, Barb Schlesinger (with PVR – Vt Tax Dept), James DeShone with NEMRC via phone, Martin Cameron, Cherilyn Brown, and Sasha Elwell-Badore.

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

Public Comment: Katie Martin introduced the new reporter that is taking her place, Hadley Laskouski. This is her last week at the Valley Reporter. Tom thanked her for the work that she has done on reporting for the town and wished her luck in the future.

Cory and Emily came in to give an update on the library move, the community was engaged. The grand re-opening was last Saturday and they had about 42 people attend. There was discussion on the town hall rental bookings and the library being more involved with it. It was explained that the procedure that is in place, is happening for a reason. There are checks and balances that need to happen with the renting of the town hall, and it needs to go through someone in the office. Cherilyn updates the calendar on the town website as soon as the town hall is reserved for any function, keeping all well informed. The library trustees are working on policies and procedures for when the town hall is being rented and what needs to be done. Rae said that the road crew is going to try to get the work done at the town hall (for better drainage by the side entrance) hopefully before Thanksgiving. It was agreed that during this time, the front door would be fine to be used. The library budget was put off until the next meeting due to having such a full agenda.

Gabe summarized the schoolboard meeting, the closure of the Fayston school was briefly talked about. Gabe thanked the board for the support of those who were able to attend the meetings.

6:35 pm Health Order Hearing – Richard said that he had seen nothing for appeals. Ray spoke up and said that he has been talking to the resident. He asked that the deadline dates be pushed out further on this order, giving the resident more time to get what is requested, done. Ray has had someone look at the situation and it's estimated that it will cost about \$2000.00 to get this cleaned up. He is willing to help this resident out with the expense and has also been in touch with the Mad River Community Fund

for some assistance. Ray and his help are scheduled to go start this project this Saturday. Tom asked Richard for the re-issue of the health order to reflect the new date of Dec 31, Richard agreed to it. Ray wanted it clear that he is willing to help on this project, he has known this resident for a long time. There was deep discussion on the whole situation, two members of the home owners association were present as well.

6:38 pm the listers (Mike and Deborah) were present to bring an Errors and Omissions to the board for approval for correction and to explain what happened on this parcel. Barbara from the Vt Tax Dept – PVR was present and James from NEMRC was present via phone. Green Mountain Power parcel id 08-073.000, had incorrect values put in by the listers making the value \$8,856,800 instead of the correct \$2,610,500. Much discussion was had on this and what in the future can be done to prevent this from happening. Barb suggested printing a new 411, to compare to the previous one, every time you make any changes, and then reconcile. Then hand write your notes on it and keep it for reference if there are any questions later. Barb also suggested that the listers reach out to GMP to see if they would be ok with a “credit” for next year and if so, get something in writing. She also added to get VLCT and the town lawyer involved with this. Tom asked that the listers reach out to GMP, and they agreed to.

7:03 pm Cherilyn and John have been working on the employee insurance details. John went over the numbers with the board on the new insurance. After more research and getting more information on the new Blue Edge, it does make sense to go with this plan. Savings for a one person plan would be \$861 and for a two person plan would be \$1280. John made the motion to change over to the Blue Edge Business plan for 2020. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

7:15 pm Martin came in to speak with the board on his budget for 2020. Most of it is level funding, with little difference. The usual things are going up gravel, sand, uniforms, hay/seed, heat, septic, and tires. There are a few equipment issues: 2015 Mack is having brake problems; the grader is still using a lot of oil; the excavator is the big question. He has got a few quotes on a new one and ball park is \$132,000.00 and up. He has checked into all the different makes and is still working on which would suite the town best. The current Kobelco the town has, has many issues.

7:50 pm Stefan came in to talk about the fire department budget. Before getting started Tom commended him on the way he handled the incident at the fire station last week. John said that he showed excellent leadership. On the budget, the vehicle maintenance is going up due to having an oil and water leak on the 1996 & 1999 trucks. Stefan let the board know that he attended the Duxbury Selectboard meeting and he proposed to them giving the town of Moretown \$7000 instead of \$3000. They were receptive and expecting it, due to not having had an increase in so many years. They couldn't agree right away, but it will be voted on at town meeting in March. The air packs for the fire department are expiring next year, the life expectancy of them is about fifteen years. He let the board know that he is working on applying for a grant.

Cherilyn has offered her help if he has any questions on it. The quote he received to replace the air packs was upwards of \$80,000. He is in the process of putting together a drug & alcohol policy and working closely with VLCT. He plans to have something in place by the end of the year for board approval. Brief discussion was had on the damage done to the fire station building. Rae said that he would contact Joe Gabaree about getting an estimate done. Stefan said that he is wondering if there is structural damage and not just cosmetic.

Reports and Communications: Tom spoke briefly about the care taking of the town hall, he would like to get with Cory and Meaghan Kathan about the cleaning. Meaghan has said that she is interested in the job, and she lives right in the village.

John briefly spoke about the meeting this week that the Mad River Valley Planning District has 11/21/19 at 6:00 pm.

8:15 pm brief discussion was had on the sidewalk project contract. It is not yet signed due to Dubois wanting some flexibility on the completion dates. Questions were brought up about the other utility lines in the village being moved, GMP has been working on moving the lines over. But the other companies have not done anything yet, and the question is, have they been contacted? There was discussion regarding the duties left for Pat Travers with Staff Sterling, do they have anything more to be done, per their contract? The town is close to the end of the budget with their services, and it is believed that once the contract has been drawn up, they are probably finished.

Old Business: Tom wanted to be sure that the library would be first at the next meeting so that their budget can be gone over. Sasha let the board know that she is still working on the quotes for the tree stump at the Haynes residence. One quote has been received and it is under \$500.00. Also still working on the security camera quotes, one was \$4000.00 and the other was about \$2000.00. which will be discussed more at the next meeting.

New Business: nothing was discussed.

Warrants for A/P 19059; 19058; 19057 and P/R 19056 were signed and approved.

Adjourn: motion to adjourn at 8:34 pm made by Tom. John seconded. All were in favor.