

**Town of Moretown
Selectboard Meeting
12/02/2019**

Board Members Present: Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn, Callie Streeter, Jason Aronowitz

Guests Present: Kristen Rodgers, Chuck Burt, Jennifer Hill, Jamie Wimble, Sasha Elwell-Badore

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

Public Comment: Kristen discussed the up-coming school board meeting on Wednesday. She said that they are revisiting the change and doing a re-vote on the freezing of IDC. The board is also looking into a bond to be voted on in March/June/November and which way it will go as far as being a whole or split up. She thought that it would be a great idea for the SB to send another letter with their preference on this.

Chuck spoke about the recreation committee and let the board know that HUUSD has agreed to pay \$950 of the recreation committee's budget for 2020. He let the board know that Duane Pierson is going to be leaving the board and wanted to know what the specifics are, if any, on the number of board members. Also, if there is a mission that the committee has, so that they can stay focused on it. Tom asked that Sasha get in touch with Cheryl on this. He also suggested that the committee work on a mission statement, along with some focal points. Chuck told the board that they had positive feedback on the initial application for the grant they are working on. The forestry plan was discussed briefly, which is coming up, due to having been ten years ago that it was done.

6:15: Chuck spoke in regard to CV Fiber, they voted to approve the town's request to join. So, there is the need to get going on the surveys, which will consist of location, current level of service and the range of money they are willing to pay. Chuck will email the survey to the board so they are well informed of the content of the questions.

6:20: Jennifer and Jamie with the library were present to discuss the budget. They clarified on why they put certain numbers in their budget. Asking for an increase in the number of hours that the librarian works, by an hour along with an increase in the hourly rate. They would like the assistant librarian pay to go up as well, due to having a difficult time keeping someone in that position. The board asked that they do some more research on the valley towns so that a more informed decision can be made.

Memberships have gone up, just because of timing, and needing to "catch up" so to speak. There is a membership that is billed in the rears and that is what is making things look like they have increased. Books and Periodicals budget has increased, to go back to the level of 2018, some of it was taken away due to it not being used. They plan on purchasing more, once things have settled down from the move. The new books are what really move at the library and get checked out vs the older ones. They communicated to the board that 358 people attended the library programs in September and October. To list just some of the 2020 ideas they have are card making, bingo, flower arranging, Souper bowl and movie nights. They received a generous donation from Lawson's and plan on purchasing a projector and possibly a couple of laptops, the computer they have now is older. They said that it is noticeably different with patrons staying longer at the library, where it would have been only half an hour, they are staying closer to an hour and a half or two hours. Brief discussion was had on specifics of the areas being used, reminding them that the agreement was to utilize the basement as well as the upstairs and touched quickly on the chairs in the basement still needing to be cleaned. It was suggested that the new hire for cleaning the town hall could possibly tackle the task of cleaning those chairs.

Rae said that winter came too quickly to get the drainage issue done at the town hall, the road department has purchased the drain. He said that Martin is going to keep an eye on the problem this winter. It's also a hope that with the foot traffic going in and out of the side door that it will keep the snow packed down so that it is not an issue with going over the door step.

6:45: moving on with the budget, Martin had sent an email saying that a couple issues have a risen and he needs some items moved around, but his bottom line should not change. The board will get those specifics from him. There was discussion on a few of the departments, computer upgrades and the long term; fire department "stipend". No decisions were made on the budget.

7:05: Old business, brief discussion on the "shortfall" was had, Tom has been communicating with VLCT and digging into whether or not insurance would cover the recent Error and Omission.

Rae said that he would follow up with Joe Gabaree, he had not heard back from him on the fire station damage, and the quote for the repairs.

Rae took off his SB hat for a moment to speak to the board about the sidewalk contract. Dubois still has not signed it, and are uncomfortable with some of the wording and the deadline. It was suggested that possibly setting up a meeting with Chris Hunt, the RE and the board would be a good idea, to get this resolved and negotiated. Sasha will send Chris an email to see what he could do, so that negotiations can be wrapped up.

7:20: New Business, Callie brought up concern on the fire department roster being kept up to date, that way the town isn't covering people that are no longer on the department. She suggested finding out if it costs something every time it is updated, so it can be determined whether it should be done once a month, every six months, once a year, etc.

Tom asked that Sasha reach out to Catrina Brackett to see if she is continuing with the Morefest committee or stepping down.

John spoke about the leadership meeting that he attended and they recognized Moretown for the \$1000 donation for the trail study, he said that it was a good meeting. He also spoke about a good conversation he had with Gianna Petito, who is with the Winooski Conservation District, she will be coming to the next SB meeting. There is a grant for ash tree inventory to be done, and we could go in on this with other towns to make the cost smaller. The inventory would be public, along the road side. There has been an issue on the Berlin side of Moretown, John has learned that there is a treatment for this problem.

Sasha has been working on quotes for security systems – there was question on the differences between the hard wire and wireless systems. Perhaps maybe our tech support could give an opinion on this. Sasha will reach out to Butternut Systems regarding this subject.

Reports and Communications: Sasha let the board know that she spoke with someone regarding the auditor positions. The concern is that they need to be in place for January, since there is a full audit being done in 2020, it will just be assembly of the Town Report. Sasha will advertise for this on Front Porch Forum.

Warrants 19060 P/R and 19061 A\P were signed and approved.

Discussion was had on the warrant for A/P having so many of the apportioned invoices on the warrant. Tom feels that we should not call on these organizations to get an invoice or to remind them that they have not billed us yet for the money that was approved on Town Meeting Day. They need to take some responsibility for their invoicing.

Minutes from 11/18/2019, Jason would like it added (to the lister portion of the meeting) that he asked about exception reporting on large percentage differences and to note it was the same as he suggested as after the tax maps were done.

John would like the last names noted in the health order hearing portion.

11/18/2019 - 6:35 pm Health Order Hearing – Richard Valentinetti said that he had seen nothing for appeals. Ray Munn 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 Munn 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 Munn and his help are scheduled to go start this project this Saturday. Tom Martin asked Richard Valentinetti for the re-issue of the health order to reflect the new date of Dec 31, Richard Valentinetti agreed to it. Ray Munn 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.

John made the motion to accept the minutes as amended, from 11/18/2019. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

Adjourn: Tom made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 pm. John seconded. All were in favor.