

**Town of Moretown  
Special Select Board Meeting  
12/07/2020  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6201042716>  
Via ZOOM Meeting ID 620 104 2716  
Passcode D84ysR  
Or to call in: 929-205-6099**

**Board Members Present:** Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn, Callie Streeter, Don Wexler

**Guests:** MRVTV, Hadley Laskowski, Emily Wood, Stefan Pratt, Martin Cameron, Cherilyn Brown, Sasha Elwell-Badore

**Public Comment:** there was none

**Highway discussions:**

**6:02:** Tom asked Martin if he had any more on planning for the “worst case scenario” with Covid-19 getting to the road crew. Martin said that he has reached out to the surrounding towns regarding coverage. Moretown has even helped Berlin, due to them having a driver in need of quarantining. Tom and Martin both have heard from people asking about plowing in case of an emergency, in response to the Front Porch Forum post from Tom. They will both get a list of those people to Sasha, Martin did give a list of people to Sasha after the last meeting, but has not spoke with any of them. Compensation had not been discussed, but was briefly talked about. Possibly loading up volunteers up with the town sand and maybe get a cheaper hourly rate charged to the town. Options will be explored, those that inquired will be asked what their hourly rates are.

**6:10:** Tom brought up the email that Martin sent to the SB regarding the Moulton property pin. Rae said that he has spoken to Dean Moulton and to Rodney Huntoon, and he confirmed that he did the ditching there. Rae feels that if the town is responsible, then the town should be paying for it. Martin will get with Dean and see where the pin was supposed to be located. Martin brought up Jan from the mill in town, having contacted him with the same issue. The road crew did some work at the town hall, but did not dig in that area. A thought was tossed out that it could have possibly been done with the construction that took place this past summer, perhaps Pike. Rae plans on bringing a metal detector and meeting Martin at both sites, to have a better look on Wednesday. Mishaps happen and Rae has dealt with this before.

**6:20:** Tom asked Martin about the new dump truck and if there is any news on that. Martin advised that he has been communicating with Dan St Cyr weekly. It looks like it will be a couple more weeks.

Tom asked Martin about the sander and how are we going to pay for it, it was out of line purchasing this sander. Anything over \$5,000 must have voter approval. Martin said that it will be covered under the 2020 budget. Tom advised that in the future it shouldn't happen. Rae echoed that voter approval is needed, unless it is for safety reasons. Tom reminded him that the SB answers to the voters and there are policies in place for a reason. Simply communicate with the SB, Tom doesn't feel that they turn down things that are reasonable. John suggested that Martin read up on the purchase policy. Martin agreed to. Callie brought up that it was a safety issue. Tom let her and the rest of the SB know that St Jay Auto and Iroquios were contacted and came up with no recalls or complaints about safety. This sander was purchased back in September, when there was no threat of ice. Martin admitted that he in the wrong. Tom also asked that he review the purchase policy.

**6:30:** Martin brought up putting into the road budget the purchase of a conex box for storage in the yard, something that could be locked up. He was asked where he would place it, and thought that it would be ok in the sandpit, by the chloride tank. His only question would be about zoning, Tom thought as long as it is moveable it would be fine, but he should follow up and be sure with the zoning administrator. Martin has priced them and a used one runs \$2,800 and a new one runs \$4,000. Rae said that they are great storage as long as you keep on top of them with the organizing.

Martin mentioned a roadside mower in the coming years. He sees that mowing twice a year is going to be required to keep up with invasive habitat. Tom asked what is normally spent a year on the roadside mowing and Martin thought it was about \$6,000. He also inquired about a price tag of one and for Martin to work on getting that for the SB.

Martin mentioned the Fletcher Road bridge, there are quite a few issues with it. It may possibly need to be replaced in the next few years, which is quite pricey.

Tom asked Martin if there was anything new with the repair quotes on the grader. He said that Beauregard is working on a quote. Munson Earth Moving doesn't want to do the work, but they are working on a quote as well. Discussion was had on sampling the transmission fluid so that a better diagnosis can be performed, it would show if it has progressed in getting worse.

**6:44:** Rae brought up the meeting that he and Martin attended with Robert Turner, regarding the Road Maintenance System. Rae recommends moving forward with it.

Martin talked about it replacing what the road crew has in place now, there will be some data input. Tom wants to be sure that all the information that is needed is getting input, that way tracking can be done, planning, and not missing information for reimbursement on the grant process. The SB would like it worked on and paid for by the end of 2020, since it was put into this year's budget.

More discussion was had on Covid-19, there were thoughts on splitting shifts and managing the road crew. Suggestions were to pair up with the same person if there is need for two men on a task. Figure out that one day one guy will do this and then the next day someone else. Isolate, get rest and take care of yourselves, was advise from the SB. Martin said that they have been locking the door to the garage when they are in there working and it has seemed to cut down on a lot of "stop in" visits.

**6:52: Budget:** Stefan was present to discuss one change to the budget with the fire department, he would like to add in 2-3 air packs. They are expiring at the end of this year, and none of them will be good. Instead of asking the town to flip the bill for 9 air packs, bringing a price tag of \$65,000+, he would like to possibly put 2-3 in the budget every year over the next few years. Then the expiration dates will be staggered and not all due to be replaced at once. He received a quote for 3 units of \$21,705.26. These units save lives, they assist with breathing and if there is a man down, they have a very distinct alarm that goes off so that man can be located. Tom mentioned that it would need to be an article to be voted on. Perhaps one could be put into the budget and then the other two get voted on. Discussion was had on if three were really needed or could two do the job? Stefan answered with, it could, but they work in three-man teams for safety. Stefan advised that the tanker is a 1988, there has been money put into it, but it is starting to show its age. He wanted to be sure that it was mentioned so that it's not a surprise when it ends up being something dire.

Stefan also mentioned that he was the last man out the door at the garage that day and Lafayette called and advised that they will replace the guardrails on Stevens Brook Road next week. (from the accident that happened a couple months ago).

Stefan was complimented about the fire station looking nice with the Christmas lights up. He commented that he liked to contribute to making the town look festive.

**7:04: Continuing on with the Budget:** Cherilyn spoke about the CAI contract being time sensitive, they would be putting lister cards and tax bills online, to align with the land records being online. There is a one-time fee that CAI would bill to get this in place and set up. It takes about six weeks to complete, but they are going to do their best to get it online quicker. The contract needs at least three signatures from the SB, is for the internet service agreement. Cherilyn will get that out to the SB along with the NEMRC agreement.

The town hall loan was paid off this year, so that budget has gone down. Cherilyn has applied for a grant to replace the windows at the town hall and the town portion of that will be \$1,800 if it is awarded to the town. She is hoping to know before the end of the month.

Town meeting and elections went down, due to there only being town meeting this coming year. Most of the budget is being level funded, although the unemployment has gone up. Memberships are pretty well the same as they have been, but there needs to be discussion on the Mad River Valley Ambulance. The health officer is asking for a stipend of \$300, same as the beginning of the 2020 calendar year. Audit expenses will be less, since the full audit was done in 2020. There was discussion on NEMRC picking up more of the lister duties and it wouldn't be adding a lot more to that budget number. Some of the lister tasks have not been done in a very timely manner. The health insurance was discussed and John said that the bottom line is that the town will be saving money. With the policy the town went with last year, there should be an \$8,000 rebate and in 2021 the insurance will be cheaper.

Cheryl is still working with the town on a few legal issues and the sidewalk, that are continuing on after she has retired. The SB would like to keep that in the budget so that she can still be of help in those areas.

Tom would like to discuss the listers, memberships, the air packs for the fire department and floor articles for town meeting at the next meeting on December 21.

John complimented Cherilyn for doing such a good job with setting up the budget, she made it much easier than in the past.

**7:40:** Cherilyn brought up the quotes from Peak Mechanical installing air filtration systems in the town hall and the town office. She is 99% sure she can get the installation of these covered under a grant for elections that she worked on getting for the town for added expenses through Covid-19. The town hall would be \$1,250, pending another quote for the basement and \$2,950 for the town office. Rae made the motion to go forward with the filtration systems. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Cherilyn asked if there was a resolution to the Green Mountain Power tax bill that had an error last year, due to the listers Errors & Omissions. Tom advised that he has a question on it out to Ron Shems.

**Reports & Communications 7:44:** John advised that Pike has cleaned up the curbing and the final walk through on the sidewalk project will be done, wrapping it up.

Callie said she attended the annual meeting for the fire department and Stefan did a fantastic job. Everyone was distanced and they kept the doors open a little for air circulation. She stayed to help clean up the kitchen and mentioned that the stove they use for cooking will probably need to be replaced soon.

Tom mentioned that Shane Grace resigned from the Animal Control Officer position. He thanked him for his hard work. There is someone in town that has expressed interest in the ACO and if not, a post will go out on FPF. Then the ordinance can be worked on when it is filled.

There was an email sent to Tom from Dick Butsch regarding the listers. Tom contacted Mike and he is working on the issue.

Also, there has been complaints on the zoning administrator's timely fashion. Tom would like to have him attend the first meeting in January.

Sasha brought up the Face Covering Mandate, the wording was corrected and wanted to be sure that it was approved. Callie asked about enforcement of it, now that it is a must. There was some discussion on this and the SB decided to add to the mandate information on reporting non-compliant people, just to have the resource at hand. Sasha will make the addition and get it posted.

**Terms:** John made the motion to re-appoint John Schmeltzer to the Planning Commission. Callie seconded. All were in favor. John made the motion to re-appoint John Riley to the Development Review Board. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

**Old Business:** Don spoke briefly about the meeting he had about MES. Tom thought there was some confusion on what the meeting was all about, he received calls from Lisa Loomis at the Valley Reporter. Tom let her know it was only an informational meeting and it was getting people together to get facts straight and see if there was any interest from the community. Don said there was interest on ways to go forward, and not just be MES, but to go at it as "the Valley". He thinks that they should "re-group" and have another meeting. Tom voiced that we are in the middle of a pandemic and there is enough stress going on right now. The focus should be on fixing the high school, it's very unfortunate. So perhaps in January another meeting could be had, brain storming, so that a well-informed decision can be made.

**New Business:** Town meeting was brought up. Ideas still need to be explored, Rae was going to possibly stop and meet Cherilyn in the parking lot to scope out the situation and get back with the SB on it.

**Next meeting:**

December 21 – will discuss the floor articles, air packs for the FD, loan for the repairs to the grader, and wrap up the budget.

John made the motion to approve the SB minutes of 11/16/2020. Rae seconded. All were in favor. Callie made the motion to approve the SB minutes of 11/23/2020. John seconded. All were in favor.

**Adjourn:** Tom made the motion to adjourn at 8:16 pm. Callie seconded. All were in favor.