

**Town of Moretown  
Select Board Minutes  
Tuesday, January 19, 2021  
<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 Streater, Don Wexler

**Guests:** Michelle Beard, Cherilyn Brown, Stefan Pratt, John Schmeltzer, Mark Gionetti (MRVAS), Neil Nussbaum, Jamie Wimble, Steve Magill, JB Weir, Sasha Elwell-Badore

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

**Public Comment:** Michelle was present to advise that she plans on resigning and stepping back from town committees for a bit. She is expecting her first grand baby next month and wants to free up some of her time to enjoy being a grandmother. She will wrap up her duties in the 2021 budget as the library trustee and then resign before her term is up. She is letting the SB know in time to possibly get it on the ballot for March.

Neil was present to ask the SB to put the question of withdrawing from HUUSD on the ballot for March. Neil had turned in petitions last April for this to happen. After brief discussion all agreed that it's a bad idea to pursue at this time. It's spending a lot of time on something that is just not going anywhere right now. It needs to be put off and pushed to the back burner. Perhaps Neil could give his ten-minute pitch at the informational meeting next month.

**6:25: Finance Committee** John H gave a summary on what the finance committee discussed at the meeting on Jan 6. He advised that the Capital budget and equipment replacement schedules have been talked about. The air-packs (now), tanker (next year) and pumper replacement (in 2026) for the fire department are on the agenda for the next meeting Feb 10 at 9:30. The big topic was the sidewalk deficit. Going over budget was due to how long it took to get things moving, the project was started in 2014 and completed in 2020, prices changed in that amount of time. Flagging was under estimated by the engineering firm, they under estimated a lot of items. Going forward with the other side of the sidewalk, the engineering firm presently working for the town is quite different (in a positive way). John advised that the committee recommends the town borrow from the SRF \$100,000. And then borrow \$270,000 from a bank for the longest term possible, (without penalties for paying back early). There is a possibility that \$65,000 could be reimbursed to the town. Since the state required the bigger culvert next to the fire station, they are possibly giving \$50,000 back to the town, (there is nothing in writing though). The state is also working with SB Collins/Jolley Associates (the Moretown store) to reimburse the town for the removal of the fuel tanks that were found during the construction, that cost is \$15,000. Many items went over and were left out by the engineering firm that was employed on the sidewalk project. John made a point to say that Dubois did a great job.

**6:33: Budget:** there were a few items that Martin wanted moved around and to different equipment lines, from an email that was sent to the SB earlier that day. Brief discussion was had on the connex container that Martin is requesting for storage. Stefan said that Martin and David Specht met and scoped out the location that the container would be placed in, it will fit. SB would like to get confirmation from David that there would be no zoning issue. The request is to buy a 40-foot container rather than a 20-foot, due to the tire rack being 20-feet long. Rae mentioned again that he has concern if there is no plan in place for it and emphasized the need to keep on top of organization with the container. Other than that, the SB thinks that it is do able. The chloride budget was discussed, the amount from 2020 was so high due to the purchase of the trailer for spreading chloride. Instead of making the budget \$20,000 vs \$15,000 last year, Rae suggested splitting the difference and put it at \$17,500. The trash bill last year was \$1,300, so to save a little bit there, that item was changed from \$1,500 to the actual spent last year in 2020 to \$1,300. Michelle mentioned that the library would like to only pay a quarter of the trash bill that is shared with the town office. Through Covid-19, there hasn't been as much. SB agreed that would be fine.

**Articles:** the article for the fire department air-packs was gone over briefly. Mark from the MRVAS was present to speak about the money that they are asking of the town to help cover the cost of the ambulance that was replaced. They did not make it in time in 2020 to request a contribution over two years to help with the expense of the ambulance. The valley towns gave \$15,000 each over two years, totaling \$30,000 from each town. They are now asking Moretown for a one-time request of \$15,000, since they missed the deadline last year. The suggestion was put out there by the SB to put \$7,500 in the budget under memberships and an article on the ballot for the voters to decide to contribute \$7,500. That way the MRVAS knows that the town is committed to contributing. They will be sure that someone from the MRVAS is at the informational meeting next month to talk about it. Discussion was had on starting a maintenance fund for emergencies that come up on equipment, as well as, adding to the bridge and culvert fund again. Articles for these two funds will be put onto the ballot.

**7:12: Informational (Pre-Town) Meeting & Town Meeting:** discussion was had on safety and having the meetings. It was decided that Town Meeting will not happen. But the Informational Meeting will be virtual, it will take place on February 22, 2021. All articles that were usually discussed on Town Meeting day will be put on the ballot. Brief discussion was had, but not decided on whether to go ahead and mail all of the ballots to active voters. HUUSD will have a ballot at the same time, if a voter wants to vote on it, they need to ask for a ballot due to it being a separate election. More talks on this will take place at a later meeting, possibly January 29, a brief morning meeting.

**7:30: Reports & Communications:** there was an email received from the Friends of the Mad River regarding planting trees along the river behind the fire station. Sasha will forward on Stefan's information so that they can connect on this, there is concern about the septic and interference with placement of the trees.

An email was received from NOW (Neck of the Woods) child care regarding using the town hall basement until their home facility is in order. The request is to be temporary through the summer. They are moving to the old Small Dog building and are going through a lot of delays

with permitting. JB Weir is on the NOW board and was present to discuss this briefly. The SB asked for more information on this, JB will get it all together and email it to Cherilyn and Sasha.

There was an inquiry about the difference in the initial quote from Clark's on the new dump truck and the actual invoice that the town is paying. There was a difference of \$2,100, Tom advised that Martin had discussed it with him and the add-ons were indeed needed. The town took delivery of the new International last week.

Tom advised that the sander that came out of the 2018 Dodge, (Swenson) was sold this weekend. It had been put on Craigslist and went rather quickly.

Rae advised that they are still working on the codes for the Road Maintenance System with Robert Turner.

John made the motion to approve the SB minutes of 1/4/2021. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

**7:50: Old Business:** Cherilyn received the loan documents for the new dump truck and needed at least three SB signatures on them. There was brief discussion on it.

Don brought up the brain storming on the future of the town hall. Tom advised that those meetings need to be warned and minutes taken.

Callie brought up winter travel on Lynch Hill. People are still driving it and getting stuck and causing damage. Rae suggested signs that say no winter traffic, Callie advised that the signs come up missing. Tom suggested calling law enforcement. Brief discussion was had on the classification of it, there are mostly camps up that road.

**New Business:** Tom would like to have a short meeting, possibly in the morning on January 29, 2021 to finalize the articles and the 2021 budget.

**Adjourn:** Tom made the motion to adjourn at 8:04 pm. John seconded. All were in favor.

**Warrants:** Signed in the past couple of weeks

AP 20060 – check 22009

AP 20058 – checks 21992-22008

AP 20057 – checks 21982-21991

AP 20056 – checks 21968-2981

AP 20055 – checks 21915-21967

AP 21002 – checks 2010-22030

PR 20059 – e-checks 3538-3548 and checks 21287-21286

PR 20054 – e-checks 3525-3536

PR 21001 – e-checks 550-3559