

**Town of Moretown
Select Board Meeting
05/03/2021**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6201042716>

Via ZOOM Meeting ID 620 104 2716

Or to call in: 929-205-6099

Members Present: Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn, Callie Streeter,
not present: Don Wexler

Guests Present: Craig Oshkello, Stefan Pratt, David Specht, Cherilyn Brown, Clark Amadon, Tim Jones, Torrey Smith, Paige Finkelstein, Hadley Laskowski, ORCA Media, Sasha Elwell-Badore

Meeting called to order by Tom at 6:00 PM

Public Comment: Craig was present to bring up needing the SB approval for a new road name, due to there being 3 dwellings on one driveway in the Living Tree development. There will be three proposed road names and David would present them to the SB later in the meeting.

6:07: Schoolboard Chair Torrey Smith and Vice Chair Tim Jones were present to give the SB an update on current topics. Their goal is to have a vote at the end of May on whether or not to merge. Torrey advised that there are no planned changes to MES at this time or in the near future. Brief Q & A was had and discussion on there needing to be a bond for Harwood. Torrey explained that there is \$20,000,000 in repairs needed, including removing some asbestos. An inquiry was had on whether or not there will be savings on merging Crossett Brook and the middle school. Torrey advised that there could be a savings of \$700,000, which equalates to ten teachers. The school could keep those teachers and not cut any programming, so the kids would benefit. She also mentioned a report that her and Tim work on and distribute before each meeting. They will be sure that the SB gets a copy of that. This one coming up will explain some of the cost savings, the next Schoolboard meeting is May 28. The subject of the pandemic came up and jumping into decisions too quickly. Torrey advised that students are able to space out 3-6 ft with masking and it is working. Any Covid-19 cases have been brought into the school and nothing has spread among students.

6:35: Finances / Validation and General Resolution: Cherilyn was present to discuss with the SB the financing for the sidewalk. She will need at least 3 signatures so that the documents can be returned to the bank Tuesday morning. Along with that, due to the loan being a term of more than five years, a Resolution and Validation Resolution will need to be adopted by the Selectboard. This loan will be for a ten-year term. Tom so moved, to adopt the Resolution and Validation Resolution per the bank requirements as Cherilyn described. John seconded. All were in favor.

6:40: Article #11: Cherilyn brought up the funding for the breathing apparatus for the FD, the article passed at \$21,999. She obtained three bank rates and Community National was the best, with a three-year term 1.59% or a five-year term at 1.89%. She spoke with one of the FRC members and the three-year would be best. Making the payment once a year \$7,567.00. Discussion was had on the SB putting it into the budget for next year so that more can be purchased, due to them being expired. Tom made the motion to finance for the three-year term at 1.59% for the breathing apparatus. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Discussion was then had on the window restoration at the town hall. Cherilyn advised that the bid numbers have changed since the quote was first done. The price has now gone up to \$12,450.00, which the town was awarded a grant for, but only a portion. Money was already put aside for this project, but more of the building maintenance money will need to be used. Tom gave Cherilyn the go-ahead to get it scheduled. Three companies were asked to bid on this project all of which had to be approved by the Preservation Trust prior. Arcadia Restorations, Preservation Carpentry is scheduling into the fall of 2021. This preservation grant is very strict and before other projects can be done at the town hall, they need to authorize it.

6:50: Housing Needs Committee: Clark was present to discuss the need for affordable housing in Moretown. He would like to see more communities like the Living Tree LLC; also explore the possibilities of waste water solutions. This would create an economic incentive and bring more opportunity for businesses. Rae is interested in the waste water and Tom reminded everyone that there is money coming available for help with that. Clark read an article that Karen Horn was credited regarding waste water solutions. The SB will follow up with Clark in about a month. David made a comment that the PC is working on affordable housing as well and they have a meeting coming up. Clark asked Paige a few questions about Living Tree and she advised that her and her husband had looked at communities all over the country and Vermont was the most affordable.

7:07: Zoning – David was present to discuss the new road name that is needed for Living Tree, (what Craig was present for earlier in the meeting). The three road names presented to the SB were: 3) Hemlock Way; 2) Community Lane; and 1) Birdsong Way. David asked the SB to adopt the road name Birdsong Way, Tom so moved. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

David brought up an issue with four E911 addresses at Gallagher Acres, the State has brought this to his attention. David was looking for some direction on this so that he could possibly avoid upsetting another resident (like the Jack Barnes address issue). It was suggested that he call these four residents and advise them of a letter being sent to them. If they have any issues or questions, they could join a SB meeting. Tom pointed out that this is not something in the town's control, so letting the home owners have some say would help.

David let the SB know that GMP is talking about donating the Taplin Schoolhouse to the Town, they thought that perhaps the Historical Society would be interested and Denise Gabaree should be reached out to. Tom asked that David get the information over to Sasha so that the SB can take a look at it and see if it would be of any value to the town. David advised that the wastewater could be an issue. More discussion and exploring needs to be had on this.

David inquired about how long Martin Cameron will be out on medical leave, he tried calling him regarding the Connex box for storage. It is in a flood plain, but it will not require a certificate of elevation, although it will still need to go through the permitting process. David will reach out to Martin again in a week or so.

7:25: Reports & Communications: Sasha advised the Jerry Cassels is asking to use the town hall basement for driving lessons Mondays and Wednesdays 5:30 – 8:00 PM from June 3rd through July. There was brief discussion on this and making sure that Covid-19 restrictions are being followed. The fees that are paid need to at least cover the cleanings that are required for Covid. This will be discussed further.

Sasha advised that the Rec Committee would like to have permission to meet at the pavilion behind the town office, Tom thought that there would be no problem with that. Steve Robbins will be contacted.

Sasha mentioned a call from Dean Moulton questioning the property pin(s) and where things were at with the scheduling. It was put off last fall until spring 2021, due to the snow. Rae advised that it will be done in the next two weeks. Sasha will follow up with Dean.

Sasha also reminded the SB about the grant Cherilyn worked on and was awarded for a plate compactor for the road department. The order needs to be placed soon. Stefan let the SB know the guys have been working on getting three quotes, so that they can order one once Martin returns to work.

John said that he had received a phone call from Angelo at The Commons regarding a dog complaint. Stefan is going to contact the dog owner, the dog has been harassing UPS drivers and snarling at people.

Callie said that there was a dog issue on Sunday and she had spoken to Stefan about it. She also spoke with the Fountain Forestry people that had a site visit near where she lives. Stefan was included on their conversation due to the concern about burning on their property. It is illegal to do without permission and Stefan will be issuing tickets to anyone found doing so. He plans on patrolling the area more frequently. Rae has also reached out to Jeff Longley so that he and Callie can discuss the four-wheeling that has been happening with the Jeeps going off the trails.

Rae brought up concern over some invoices that have been sent to him for approval, due to being over \$500. There has been no communication with the road department

and SB with prior knowledge of needed repairs to equipment until an invoice comes in. Emergencies are just that, but if it isn't, there needs to be some communication. Tom suggested a meeting with himself, Rae and Martin, once he is back from his medical leave.

Rae made the motion to accept the SB minutes of 4/19/2021. Callie seconded. John advised that he sent Sasha amendments to the executive session section of the 4/19/2021 SB minutes. Rae made the motion to accept the amended SB minutes of 4/19/2021. Callie seconded. All were in favor. Sasha will adjust those minutes, with the minutes of 5/3/2021.

Amendment as follows:

First one: John made the motion at 7:10 PM to go into executive session finding that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the Select Board at a substantial disadvantage, due to attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Select Board as per Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(F). John made the motion to come out of executive session at 7:38 PM. Callie seconded. All were in favor. No motions made.

Second: John made the motion to go back into executive session at 7:34 PM to discuss a clear and imminent peril to public safety as per Title 1, Section 313(a)(5). John made the motion to come out of executive session at 7:38 PM. Callie seconded. All were in favor. No motions made.

Old Business: MOU was briefly brought up.

New Business: Tom would like to see the first meeting in June be in person at the town office. Brief discussion was had on it, more will be determined later.

Tom brought up Morefest, Lindsay Staples reached out to Tom's wife LeeAnne regarding it. Tom feels that it should be for the Town of Moretown people, a celebration, low key, not commercial, just an event to come to. Perhaps fireworks, bon fire, FD raise money with a corn roast, SB do a pig roast, music, beer tent...perhaps get a FPF post out and get a feel for participation.

Tom received a voicemail from Christine Sullivan on the schoolboard, he had not had a chance to return the call.

Tom also reminded everyone about getting the documents back to Cherilyn in the morning.

Adjourn: Tom made the motion to adjourn at 7:53 PM. John seconded. All were in favor.