
**Moretown Select Board Meeting
May 20, 2024 at 6:00 PM
79 School Street
In the John Hoogenboom Meeting Room
Via ZOOM Meeting ID 620 104 2716 or call in: 929-205-6099**

Members Present: Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom via ZOOM, Don Wexler, Callie Streeter, Robin Campbell via ZOOM

Guests: ORCA, Clark Amadon, Rae Washburn, Linda Hazard, Cherilyn Brown, Jim with Hungerford Paving, Sasha Elwell

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

Public Comment: there was none

6:01 **Bids for Parking Lot** – Rae was present to go over the bids that were received for the paving and concrete part of the parking lot project. Two bids were received for paving:

Hungerford Paving - \$118,992

J.A. MacDonald - \$128,676.27

John **made the motion** to approve Hungerford Paving at \$118,992. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

One bid was received for concrete:

C.P. Site Construction - \$42,950

Tom **made the motion** to approve C.P. Site Construction at \$42,950. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Rae spoke about needing the SB approval to replace the railroad tie by the church with granite curbing in exchange for using the catch basin by the church, the bill for the granite is \$4,407.

Tom **made the motion** to approve the new granite curbing in exchange for the use of the catch basin. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Rae is hoping to have a pre-project meeting with the town, church and school so that the area can be video-taped showing all existing issues, such as foundation cracks, etc.

Rae advised that things are moving along with FEMA. The amount submitted for 2023 was \$339K, thus far they have approved \$58K. Rae is in hopes that another \$190K will be approved in a few weeks. The road crew still has the surface work to be done which will be in upwards of another \$300K, adding in the culvert work totals could be more towards \$2million.

6:20 **Finance Review Committee** – Cherilyn and Linda joined to go over what the FRC discussed at their last meeting, along with John. Cherilyn said that the bank is recommending that there be a motion made to appoint Tom and Cherilyn signors on the loan documents so

that as soon as it's possible the money can be sent out for the purchase of the truck, since they are looking for the money soon. Callie **made the motion** for Tom and Cherylyn to sign the loan documents for the truck. John seconded. All were in favor. Community Bank can do 5.24% on a three-year term for \$271,679 and this is with keeping the Mack as a spare truck. Tom **so moved**, John seconded. All were in favor.

Discussion was had on pushing out future truck payments so that there is no year with two truck payments in it. The next truck would be ordered in 2027 for financing starting in 2028 and then two years after that order the next truck. Discussion was had on using money that is in the Capital Reserve towards the truck as well, borrowing less money from the bank would save the tax payers a lot of interest. Suggestions were put out there for using some of the Savings Reserve for what it was created for, lowering the tax rate. With the Primary coming up in August, there is an opportunity to have a vote on it. A decision needs to be made by the first part of July, so that it can be warned for the 30-days prior. Just needs to be kept in mind that \$750K needs to stay in the Savings Reserve so there is no need for a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN), which saves a lot of interest as well.

Linda said that she is going to be doing some research on Airbnb's and possibly taxing those properties differently. Thoughts on tipping fees with Grow Compost were spoken about as well, just as it was done with the landfill when it was open. All aspects of bringing in town revenue are being explored, especially now with the possibility of losing \$2million out of the grand list with the Hazard Mitigation Buyouts. It was also brought up that the commercial district is full and the SB should meet with the PC regarding the Town Plan.

6:50 **Clean Water Committee** – Clark and Rae were present to speak with the SB about the letter that the committee worked on to send back to the SOV regarding the recession of ARPA Funds. The deadline to have it to the SOV is May 28th, the SB approved it and Sasha will get it on letterhead from the town and have Tom sign it. Discussion was had on three potential sights that still could have test pits done. The committee is asking the SOV for more time for them to be done and land purchased. They are looking for an extended deadline of the end of this year, rather than July. Tom thanked them for the time and efforts they have put into this project thus far.

7:15 **Appoint Custodial Official** – quick discussion was had on Enforcement Officials, both the ACO and First Constable should have authority to write tickets. Tom **made the motion** to appoint Sasha Elwell as the Custodial Official. Callie seconded. All were in favor. Tom **made the motion** to appoint the ACO (Stefan Pratt) and First Constable (Tom Chenette) to Enforcement Officials. John seconded. All were in favor.

7:20 **Reports & Communications:** Cherylyn needed an official motion on the memo regarding moving the money to the Capital Reserve. Tom **made the motion** to allow Cherylyn to move the \$162K from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve fund. John seconded. All were in favor.

Tom said that the SB would circle back around to discussing the MRVRD within the next month.

Birdseye Forestry invoice for the Town Forest Plan should be taken out of the SB "discretionary" fund.

7:28 **Old Business** – Sasha will follow-up on the contact with GMP again about the street light near Pony Farm Road, there has been nothing heard from them.

7:29 **New Business** – there was none

John **made the motion** to accept the SB minutes from 4/15/2024. Robin seconded. All were in favor. Callie **made the motion** to accept the SB minutes from 5/06/2024. John seconded. All were in favor.

7:30 Tom **made the motion** to go into Executive Session to discuss the Employee Evaluations that were done in March 2024, per 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (3). Robin seconded. All were in favor.

8:10 Tom **made the motion** to exit Executive Session. Robin seconded. All were in favor.

Action taken is to give employee raises as follows:

Sasha Elwell \$1.21 increase to \$25 per hour
Cherilyn Brown \$2.78 increase to \$35 per hour
Shawn Graves \$2.25 increase to \$29.16 per hour
Rodney Huntoon \$1.00 increase to \$29.78 per hour
Stefan Pratt \$2.00 increase to \$27.84 per hour
Martin Cameron \$1.00 increase to \$36.03 per hour

These are to be retro back to April 1st.

The SB voted 3-1 to approve. Tom, John, and Don – Yea. Robin – No. Callie abstained from voting due to conflict of interest.

Warrants and document signed and approved: 24024 Payroll e – checks 4550 – 4560 and 24025 Accounts Payable checks 24818 – 24838

15 liquor licenses approved for Bliss Ridge.

A curb cut permit, road maintenance permit and a few overloads were signed.

Adjourn: Tom **made the motion** to adjourn at 8:14 pm. Callie seconded. All were in favor.