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**Moretown Select Board Meeting**  
**Monday December 2, 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**

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**Members Present:** Tom Martin, Don Wexler, Callie Streeter, Robin Campbell, Mike Brown

**Guests presents:** Stefan Pratt, Travis Blodgett, Linda Hazard, Cherilyn Brown, Laura Arnesen, Sasha Elwell

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Tom

**Public Comment:** Stefan was present to speak with the SB about the Pony Farm winter parking issue that has not changed. The folks that live at the beginning of the road are still parking in the roadway. Quick discussion was had. The town does have the right to have them towed. This has been an on-going issue for many years with no change. Don will make another effort to get with them before having Martin make a call on having them towed.

Travis was present to ask questions about an access that has been used off Tart Road for Guy Martin's land. Not enough information was available for the SB to know what was being referred to.

6:05 **MRVRD** – Laura was present to go over what the district has been up to over the last year. They celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October, along with the grand opening of the recreation hub at the intersection of Route 100 & 17. There have been a lot of great things going on. Laura is excited to have the voters decide on joining the MRVRD at town meeting.

6:15 Tom introduced the new Select Board member, Mike Brown.

6:18 **Finance Review Committee** – Linda was present to go over things that were discussed at their last meeting.

- The recommendation is to go with NSB for 15 years at 4.99% financing on the new fire truck, there is more flexibility with a 15-year loan
- Discussion on the 2024 turn out gear (article #9) purchase was had and it was recommended that due to the small amount (\$10K), taking out a loan wouldn't be savvy. It should be taken out of the CRF, with the agreement that in a better financial year, it be returned
- With the request of two more sets of turn out gear, the FRC would like the FD to give more information for a better overview, before the go ahead is given with another article. They are asking for a list of purchases, dates and the expirations of those items for better clarification on the big picture of the inventory – essentially, so there is an understanding of the life span of the inventory

- They would like the SB to ask the FD to work with other towns to help Moretown financially, just as we help other towns with their services
- The ask of a volunteer with financial background, to assist in going over the FD books is back on the table, with the passing of Bob Holden, this task was not completed.

Quick discussion was had on adding two more members and Tom thinks it best to be addressed after the new year.

Callie **made the motion** to finance the fire truck through NSB for 15 years at 4.99%. Robin seconded. All were in favor.

Robin **made the motion** to move the funds from the CRF for the purchase of the turn out gear for the 2024 Article of \$10K, with Jason's note to return the funds in a better financial year. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

6:35 **Budget** – Cherilyn was present to go over the town office budget as well as a couple of other departments. Not all of the contract numbers are available yet, the town of Waterbury still is working on their numbers for the ambulance, as well as a few other things. Discussion was had on audits, due to the town receiving more than \$700K of federal funds, it is required that there be a full audit, with the flooding, this could be a two-to-three-year requirement. Cherilyn reached out to half a dozen firms, even went as far as Maine and had no luck. But she circled back around to Sullivan & Powers and was able to secure a contract with them. Tom **made the motion** to accept the Sullivan & Powers Contract from Dec 2024 – Dec 2026 for three audits. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

The cemetery was asking for \$1,500 for stone cleaning, in the 2025 budget. It was agreed that those funds should come out of their perpetual care account. Tom asked that Sasha let them know that decision.

Discussion was had on the MRV Resource Alliance MOU, there is some questions on the town's liability that the last auditor brought up and Cherilyn sent it over to the town attorney to look at. She wanted to confirm with the SB that it should be further looked in to, and it was agreed that it should be. She will get with Ron Shems on it.

The Buyouts were discussed. This process is going to affect the town by \$3million. The town a.k.a. the applicant, is responsible for 25% of the \$3million. The town has to hire and pay the contractors for demolition as well, the "Buyout" is way more in depth than originally anticipated. The town will be losing out on funds in the beginning as well as the long term in losing those tax dollars coming in. Tom asked that the FRC figure out what those costs will/could be: interest & time = the town costs. Cherilyn will reach out to Ron on this as well.

Cherilyn mentioned some land that there was an agreement with Rae Washburn on, off Herring Brook Road back in 2005. It's a land locked parcel of 2.8 acres. Rae is just getting the survey part done now. There is nothing that needs to be done on the SB part, she was just bringing it up, she will check with Ron on this as well to be sure that nothing needs to be done on the town part.

7:14 **Reports & Communications:** the coin drop was brought up and Don had not had a chance to speak with Stefan yet.

David Russo would like to be reappointed to the DRB. Tom **so moved**. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Waterbury Senior Center sent an email asking for more funds in the 2025 Town Meeting Appropriations. Sasha will be sure that everyone gets that email.

MRVAS will be tabled again.

**Errors & Omissions:** JSN LLC 408-127-10773 changed from \$131,300 to \$126,300 with a difference of \$5,000. Reason being incorrectly placed the foundation on this parcel when it should have been on 408-127-10711. Upper Court Properties 408-127-10711 changed from \$51,200 to \$56,200 with a difference of \$5,000. To correct the location of the foundation. Error & Omission was approved and signed.

Callie mentioned needing to have Rae touch base with Shawn regarding the easement needed for the culvert work that will be done by Avery on Jones Brook Road. Tom asked that Shawn call Rae.

Robin mentioned needing to revisit the resolution with Denise and the Historical Society.

Don mentioned that the school board members would like to come in and speak with the SB. Tom suggested the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting they be scheduled for ten minutes and then schedule the town meeting engagement committee for half an hour at that meeting as well.

Quick discussion was had on the town buildings and maintenance. Callie is doing a training for Asset Management (Fixed Assets through the NEMRC module), maybe the town could look into that as well to assist with keeping up with that.

Quick discussion was had on the speed limit signs, they should be ordered soon so that they can come out of this year's budget. How many can be purchased, needs to be figured out.

Don updated everyone on the Mad River Path scoping study, it is well underway.

7:30 Callie **made the motion** to approve the SB minutes of 11/18/2024. Don seconded. All were in favor.

7:32 **Old Business:** there was none

7:33 **New Business:** there was none

**Warrants** signed and approved: 24059 Accounts Payable checks 25861 – 25895; 24060 Payroll e – checks 4703 – 4712 and check 25896; 24061 Accounts Payable checks 25897 - 25921

7:43 pm Tom **made the motion** to go into Executive Session per 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a) (6), regarding a confidential COD request. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

8:00 pm Tom **made the motion** to exit Executive Session. Mike seconded. All were in favor.

**Action taken:** Callie **made the motion** to move \$7,765 out of the Charles O. Davis Fund, per request. Don seconded. Robin voted no. Don, Mike, Tom and Callie voted yes.

**Adjourn:** Tom **made the motion** to adjourn at 8:03 pm. Callie seconded. All were in favor.