
Moretown Select Board Meeting
Monday December 16, 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, Don Wexler, Mike Brown, Robin Campbell, not present Callie Streeter

Guests presents: MRVTV, Rae Washburn, Steve Magill, John Schmeltzer, Cory Stephenson, Candace White, Sasha Elwell

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Tom

Public Comment: Rae was present to give the SB an update on FEMA. Of the 2023 flooding, there are two last projects, the Ward Brook and Jones Brook culverts – it's looking like fixing the bridge on Lover's Lane will be more cost effective than fixing the road. This year's storm damages meeting with FEMA will be starting on Thursday, Rae is in hopes that this process goes more swiftly than the last one, knowing what they are looking for now. There are a few more culverts that need to be done next year, one near Haptops Road and a couple on Moretown Common, those are probably going to be upwards of \$750k. As well as two others on Jones Brook Road that were installed in the 1990's, same scenario. The bids that were opened for the Jones Brook Road culvert earlier in the afternoon, Avery came in at the lowest. Rae recommends going with him again, he has done a good job with other projects from the flooding this year.

Candace was present to introduce herself and ask about things that the SB is presently working on. She asked about the buyouts that the VR wrote about. Tom briefly spoke about it, let her know that the SOV is now working on it.

6:25 Town Meeting Engagement Committee – Steve, John and Don spoke about the list of ideas they brought along. (these ideas have been brainstormed by Don Wexler, Steve Magill, John Schmeltzer and Karen Horn). They suggest holding pre town meeting on Feb 18, 2025 following the regular SB meeting. As well as change the time of town meeting, to 4:00 pm on March 4, 2025. They would like the voting to take place at the school as well as town meeting that way it is all in the same place. Their thoughts are that if it is in the same building, more people will participant. They want to offer childcare and organize a pot luck too. Discussion was had on combining a few different articles together so that it may take a little less time for discussion at town meeting. Tom likes their suggestion of both the meetings, he wants to be sure that if the voting and town meeting are at the school that there are plenty of volunteers to assist Cheryl and Sasha in getting the equipment over to the school safely and that all of that responsibility isn't on just them, (as well as help carrying it back to the office). Don will reach out to Kate Liptak. Tom **made the motion** to have Pre-Town Meeting February 18 at 6:30 after the regular Select Board meeting and to have Town Meeting March 4th at 4:00 pm – both

being at the school. Don seconded. All were in favor. A proper PA system was spoken about and Don believes he has that covered with a resident that is a dj.

7:00 **Budget** – Cory was present to speak with the SB about the town hall budget. A few items were discussed regarding maintenance, such as power washing, the septic (which is shared with the old Cutler house across from the town hall), and dehumidifier being upgraded. There have been 5 private events, weekly martial arts classes, 2,300 visits vs. 600-800 at the old library building. Don said that they are close to the completion of construction documents and then it will then go to Naylor & Breen, they will then do a cost of the project. The design has been being funded by the capital campaign, there still needs to be more funds raised.

Quick discussion on maintenance of the town buildings was had, all of them are in need of attention, the power wash is a big need for all of them. There are small projects that need to be done at the town garage, it really needs to be thought about.

Items that mostly have gone up in the budget are supplies, electric, fuel and wages, which will affect both employees and contractors. At the first meeting in January compensation will be discussed.

7:32 **Reports & Communications:**

Bids for the Jones Brook Road culvert replacement that were opened 12/16/2024:

JA McDonald - \$725,370
Blue Mountain - \$709,900
Dirt Tech - \$752,270
Avery - \$642,130.66
SD Ireland - \$689,500
J Hutchins - \$764,680
Neil Daniels - \$731,625
CCS Constructors - \$ 750,000

Tom **made the motion** to award the bid to Avery at \$642,130.66. Mike seconded. All were in favor.

The letter of intent for the MRGP was approved and signed.

Cherilyn needed direction on the extra funds for the fire truck. Tom **made the motion** for the additional \$15,475 for the chassis to be increased in the loan amount. Robin seconded. All were in favor.

Sasha brought up the MRVAS MOU and the \$6K contribution. Tom would like to discuss it at the next meeting.

The Washington County Sheriff's report will be sent to the SB.

Tom received an email from Garrett from NEMRC, regarding some Ward land on South Hill Road. He asked that Sasha get the info on that land to Mike to look into it further. He would like to donate it to the town.

Robin brought up the Resolution that he has worked with the Historical Society on. Robin **made the motion** to approve the Resolution for the Vermont 250th Anniversary. Don seconded. All were in favor.

Cherilyn needed the SB minutes from 12/02/2024 to be amended to read on page 2, \$750K, not \$700K. Tom **made the motion** to accept the SB minutes as amended for the 12/02/2024 meeting. Robin seconded. All were in favor.

Don wanted to remind everyone that the 2 reps for the school board will be at the first January SB meeting. Don will forward the power point for everyone to look at beforehand.

7:44 **Old Business:** discussion was had that the Town Meeting suggestions were some good ideas.

7:46 **New Business:** there was none

Warrants signed and approved: 24063 Payroll e – checks 4713 – 4722 and check 25935; 24064 Accounts Payable checks 25936 – 25959

Next meeting is January 6, 2025.

Adjourn: Tom **made the motion** to adjourn at 7:50 pm. Robin seconded. All were in favor.