

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
TOWN OF MORETOWN
AS A TOWN AND AS A TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013

WARNING FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF TOWN OF MORETOWN AND
AS A TOWN AND AS A TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT TO BE HELD
MARCH 5, 2013

The inhabitants of the Town of Moretown who are legal voters in Town and Town School District meetings are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Moretown Elementary School in Moretown Village on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 9 o'clock in the forenoon to act upon the following matters:

Steve Magill, Moderator, called the meeting to order, reminded everyone that the polls were open, and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then asked for a moment of silence for those who have passed within the year. Steve passed out rules of the meeting conduct and asked if there were any questions on the town report. There was no discussion.

Steve led the invocation.

1. **To elect a moderator to preside at the meeting of the Town and Town School District whose term of office shall be for the ensuing year.** Clark Amadon nominated Steve Magill, John Schmeltzer seconded and Tom Martin asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. The ayes have it.
2. **To hear and act upon the reports of the Town and Town School District officers.** Heidi Magill moved to accept the town reports. Johanne Gray seconded. Ayes have it.
3. **To cast ballots for Town and Town School District officers. Voting to be by Australian ballot. Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
4. **To see if the Town will vote to have its current taxes paid to the Town Treasurer in one installment due and payable by midnight on November 1, 2013.** Ed Schwartzrich so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. Note: November 1st is a Friday. The ayes have it.
5. **To see if the Town will vote to eliminate the offer of a discount on taxes.** Judith Kitchell so moved and Denise Sanders seconded. The ayes have it.
6. **To see if the Town will vote to set the tax warrant date on real property as November 1, 2013.** Heidi Magill so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. The ayes have it.
7. **Shall the voters of the Moretown Town School District appropriate the sum of \$2,050,675.00 necessary for the support of the school, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2014? Voting to be by Australian ballot. Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. No discussion.**

8. **Shall the voters authorize the Board of School Directors of Moretown Town School District to borrow money by issuance of notes in anticipation of revenue to pay the expenses of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014?** Melinda Carr so moved and John Schmeltzer seconded. The ayes have it.
9. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown vote the sum of \$1,068,802.00 for the support of the Town, for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013, for any operating expenses and other obligations? Voting to be by Australian ballot. Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. No discussion.**
10. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown vote to use any surplus from FY2012 to reduce the 2013 property tax rate?** Rae Washburn so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. Dave Van Deusen asked if there was a surplus and if this money could be put in capital savings, thinking that there is concern that the landfill might close. Tom Martin responded that there could be other options for the surplus if the article is not approved but this is the option the board chose. Karen Horn asked if the surplus is in the 2013 budget. Tom Martin explained that there was a \$108,137.16 surplus in 2012 as indicated on page 27 of the Town Report and if this article is not approved, the tax rate would increase approximately one cent per \$20,000. This was included in the 2013 budget. There was some discussion on how much the tax rate would go up if this article was not approved and whether the money should go into the Savings Reserve Fund. Jerry Maynard called the question, 38 people were in favor, and one was opposed. The article passed, ayes have it.
11. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown authorize its Select Board to borrow money with which to pay its lawful debts and expenses for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013, in anticipation of the collection of taxes for that purpose?** Gerry Maynard so moved and Karen Horn seconded. The ayes have it.
12. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown authorize the Select Board to forgo mailing the Annual Report of the Town and Town School District and offer instead two designated locations for pickup and online access via moretownvt.org? Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Section 1682 (a).** Gerry Maynard so moved and Johanne Gray seconded. Questions and comments are as follows: Dick Valentinetti asked where reports could be obtained; Jerry Maynard asked how much money could be saved and suggested announcing that the report is ready in the newspaper and people could pick up a book at various locations. Arliss Fuglie suggested pickups should be located in the village; Dara Torre said savings would be \$500, auditors recommended eliminating the mailing, and reports could be available at the town office or possibly the school. Dara is open to suggestions; Dave Van Deusen opposes mail elimination and suggested taking costs out of the Constable budget; Sara Zschau suggested sending reports to people who ask for it; Julie Kitchell supports saving paper and suggests middle ground options like sending postcards to residents that reports are ready; John Schmeltzer asked if savings was mostly postage and Dara Torre responded yes; Brian Burgess a new resident asked if people could opt out of receiving the report by mail; Karen Horn stated that many towns do not mail out reports, some send postcards, some use news print, and maybe the town could ask auditors for other ways to cut back town report costs; Deb Hunter said Harwood will publish shorter versions of the school report next year; Mary Larsen liked the postcard. Kim Summers opposed not mailing reports and doesn't believe all people use computers or have access to one (as also stated by Johanne Gray), however online is one option and people could respond to postcards as to whether they want the report mailed; she suggested eliminating

multiple mailings as her family receives 3 copies; Jonathan Siegel said postcards cost money and town could announce that reports are available via the internet, the town report was online last year and it's a good way to read the report; Tom Martin said selectboard is always looking for ways to save money but what he is hearing is that the report should be mailed and people should vote against it. John Summers, not registered to vote but a town resident, asked to speak. No town attendant opposed to his speaking. Summers opposes elimination of report, as it is part of the town tradition, among other reasons and without it, it would change the community. John Hoogenboom mentioned costs on page 19 of the report and supports continuing the report distribution. Brian Burgess suggested the postcard include the question of whether the people want the report mailed. Eliza Cain moved to call the question. All were in favor. Voting on the article; the nays have it.

13. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown vote to set aside the sum of \$10,000.00 for the repair and upkeep of the bridges of the Town? Voting to be by Australian ballot. Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. No discussion.**
14. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown vote to approve spending an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 for law enforcement, to supplement the \$5,000.00 already in the budget? Voting to be by Australian ballot. Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. No discussion.**
15. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown authorize its Select Board to divide the revenue from the Moretown Landfill Inc. so that 52% is deposited into the General Operating Fund to lower the 2013 tax rate, 40% is deposited into the Savings Reserve Fund and 8% is deposited into the Capital Reserve Fund? Voting to be by Australian ballot. Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Tom Martin said based on Host Agreement with Landfill, the town expects \$350,000 in revenue. The continuation of the Landfill is in the hands of the state. Mike DiMaggio, manager of the Landfill operations said they met with the state last week regarding Cell IV. Problems with Cell II and III are being solved but not quite finished yet. So far they have replaced #9 out of 18 wells. He doesn't know where the state stands on recertification. The company agreed with the state not to take any out of state sludge and agreed with state on not taking extra 85 feet that causes big mounds. If certification is not approved on March 8, the gates have to be closed. There are no plans for transfer stations. Work on the Landfill will continue even if it closes. If it is closed to large trucks, residents still have a few months to take their trash. Joe writes a daily newsletter that keeps people informed on Landfill status and activities that is available by e-mail. Lisa Samson suggested using Front Porch Forum. Jamie Murphy asked about the town's role with the landfill situation and Tom Martin said the board is working on this. Tom Martin said the board can keep residents informed on the town website. John Hoogenboom said this is a district wide problem and valley selectboards are aware of the issues. Jonathan Siegel said closing the landfill will cause major increase in truck traffic towards Coventry and there is little for trash relief near central Vermont. Denise Sanders suggested future financial planning without a landfill.

16. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$400.00 to help support the work of Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc.?** Vee Lynch so moved. John Lynch seconded. John Lynch said the Council provides a lot of good for the community. The ayes have it

17. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$945.00 to help support the work of Green Mountain Transit Agency?** Vee Lynch so moved. Mary Larsen seconded. The ayes have it.
18. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to help support the work of Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired?** Karen Sharpwolf so moved. Steve Sharp seconded. The ayes have it.
19. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$950.00 to help support the work of Central Vermont Council on Aging?** Diane Costello so moved. Melinda Carr seconded. The ayes have it.
20. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$150.00 to help support the work of Washington County Youth Service Bureau / Boys & Girls Club?** Brian Burgess so moved. Eliza Cain seconded. The ayes have it.
21. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 to help support the work of Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice?** Heidi Magill so moved. Steve Sharp seconded. The ayes have it.
22. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$1,200.00 to help support the work of Central Vermont Adult Basic Education?** John Lynch so moved. Johanne Gray seconded. The ayes have it.
23. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$200.00 to help support the work of RSVP (Retired Senior and Volunteer Program)?** Heidi Magill so moved. Diana Costello seconded. The ayes have it.
24. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$300.00 to help support the work of Good Beginnings of Central Vermont?** Eliza Cain so moved. Mary Larsen seconded. Mary Larsen explained that this organization helps with parenting, including working with families of newborns. The ayes have it.
25. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to help support the work of Family Center of Washington County?** Heidi Magill so moved. John Schmeitzer seconded. The ayes have it.
26. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$200.00 to help support the work of People's Health & Wellness Clinic?** Dave Van Deusen so moved. Judith Kitchell seconded. Dave Van Deusen said that health care for low-income families might increase depending on the decision of the legislature and feels that many need this service. Dave Van Deusen moved to amend the article to \$500.00. Randy George seconded. The ayes to amending the article have it. The ayes to the amended article have it.
27. **Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$200.00 to help support the work of Circle (formerly Battered Women's Services and Shelter)?** Eliza Cain so moved. Diana Costello seconded. Eliza Cain expressed support. Town Clerk Cheryl Brown explained that the town notifies any agency on whether the article was approved, denied or changed, if the agency doesn't call first.

28. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to help support the work of the Mad River Valley Senior Citizens Center?
Heidi Magill so moved. Eliza Cain seconded. The ayes have it.

29. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 to help support the work of the Waterbury Area Senior Citizens Center?
Heidi Magill so moved. Eliza Cain seconded. Sandra Ershaw said that the Senior Center does need more money this year and didn't ask for a contribution last year. Jerry Maynard moved to amend the article to \$1,000. Laura Ellenwood seconded it. Steve Sharp said the town should remember that Moretown seniors living near the Waterbury side use the facility in that village. Gabe Gilman suggested the town explore the differences between this request and that of the Senior Center in Waitsfield. The attendees voted on the amendment; the nays have it. Dave Van Deusen suggested the town consider a type of grant that can be distributed to different organizations. The vote to approve the article: the ayes have it.

Maxine Grad, legislator thanked voters for electing her. She acknowledged Denise Gabaree and the Moretown Historical Society's hard work preparing to celebrate Moretown's 250th birthday. The legislature, both house and senate, passed Resolution #10 commemorating Moretown's 250th birthday. Maxine read the resolution. Maxine thanked Kai Samson and Clark Amadon for their work with the town. As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, she is working on laws to prevent abuse of opiate and prescription drugs, the number one health problem in Vermont. She said the crimes we are seeing are much more drug related. Computer software will enable doctors and pharmacists to watch for purchase of drugs. The committee is also looking at GMO bill, highway safety and junior operator laws, and DUI laws. Maxine enjoys working with Adam Gresham.

Adam Gresham thanked the people for letting him speak. This is his first Moretown town meeting. He serves on the Ways and Means Committee, the tax and fee policy group. Education tax will increase 5 1/2% for residents, 6% for non-residents. Education budgeting is done differently from other areas of state budgeting. Other taxes are based on revenue projections. Education budgeting is reversed. The process begins with local schools that prepare budgets and send to the Agency of Education. The agency adds all the school budgets and forwards to the legislature. Every town school budget is voted on by the legislature. His committee determines how they will pay for the increase. This year revenue is starting to increase. There is a lot of pent of demand for new initiatives. Some initiatives begin in Governor's budget. Many initiatives don't have a source of funding or a reliable source of funding that he and his committee agree with. One example is an initiative to boost early childhood care funded by reducing unearned tax credits. One person's credit is another's tax hike. He supports unearned tax credit. He does not support funding the early childcare initiative by reducing the tax income credit. Statewide, school enrollment is going down. The cost of health care for teachers and staff are increasing 10 ½ to 11 percent. Regarding health care reform, teachers may use VEHI in the future in exchange for their current program but that will be up to the school districts. Teacher salaries are going up 3 to 3 ½ percent, as are building maintenance costs. John Lynch praised Adam Gresham for biking on Moretown Common.

30. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown instruct the Selectboard to enact the following resolution to protect citizen health and safety, water bodies, and other natural resources, in relation to tar sands oil transport through Vermont?

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Town express its opposition to the transport of tar sands oil through Vermont, and its deep concern about the risks of such transport for public health and safety, property values, and our natural resources; and
2. That the Town encourage the State of Vermont and other northeast states to support policies phasing out fuel purchases as quickly as possible from vendors whose refinery sources of origin use any form of tar sands; and
3. That the Town call upon the Vermont State Legislature and the U.S. Congress to ensure thorough environmental impact reviews of any tar sands related pipeline proposals, including the health and safety impacts of potential tar sands oil spills; and
4. That the Town transmit a copy of this resolution to all relevant state, federal and Canadian officials, and the CEO's of Portland Pipe Line Corporation, Montreal Pipe Line Limited, Imperial Oil, ExxonMobil, and Enbridge Inc.

Randy George so moved. Diane Costello seconded. Randy George said that the pipelines passes through 8 towns in Vermont, tar sands oil makes standard crude oil look good and there is 3 to 4 times more impact on global warming with tars sand oil. An 800,000 gallon oil spill occurred in Michigan in 2010, over \$825,000,000 in cleaning up so far. There is a large area there that is uninhabitable. There is no benefit economically as crude oil goes through these pipelines now and people are already employed. Fuel vendors should be asked not to purchase tar sands oil. Lists are available indicating which companies use crude oil or tar sands oil. He encouraged people to send a message to the State, U.S. Govt. and the Canadian Govt., and corporate powers that we oppose using tar sands oil. Dave Van Deusen supports the resolution and serves on Vermont Commission of Native American Affairs and reported that Native Americans are also completely against this (transporting tar sands oil through the pipeline). Diane Costello circulated a petition for this ballot. Pipeline is 60 years old, is decommissioned and hasn't been used in 5-10 years. The crude is highly corrosive. There is concern Vermont that there are cracks in pipeline. The pipeline passes through 10 towns and 15 waterways. This poses a tremendous impact on towns. We are one in 11 towns voting today and so far 7 passed it. Ayes have it. A division to show the strength of vote was requested. 54 approved, 1 opposed.

31. Shall the voters of the Town of Moretown authorize the Selectboard to use the revenue in the Recreation Fund for the maintenance or improvement of the Town's recreation fields and related events, at the discretion of the Selectboard upon the recommendation of the Recreation Committee, or at the direction of the voters of the Town at a duly warned annual or special meeting? Vee Lynch so moved. Diane Costello seconded. Steve Sharp asked if the recreation committee is active. Vee Lynch said no and she wants to resign from the committee and feels it needs fresh blood. Steve Sharp asked if there is not an active committee who is going to recommend anything. Tom Martin said that there is \$5400 in the budget. Vee Lynch said she believes most of their budget goes into mowing the lawns. Doug Reed, who has served on the Recreation Committee, encourages anyone to join the committee and/or contact

the School Board and Selectboard regarding recreation initiatives. Dara Torre suggested the town consider joining the Valley Mad River District Recreation Committee and look into the costs and financial benefits. The children's deeryard fund did make a contribution to the Little League. Vee Lynch said the town previously voted down joining this group but doesn't remember why. The ayes have it.

32. To do any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

John Hoogenboom thanked all volunteers, elected officials, Adam Gresham and Maxine Grad, board members and committees, acknowledged Representative Anne Donahue for her previous work with the town, Clark Amadon, Selectboard and Kaj Samson, School Board, Lucinda Newman and Rob Roberts Planning Commission, the Development Review Board, Linda Vantine, and Vee Lynch, Recreation Committee for their contributions. He thanked Clark Amadon for his continued work on the new town office, Stephanie Venema for helping with the Planning Commission grant, the Moretown Library, Karen Horn and John's daughter Anne from the Moretown Energy Group.

Karen Horn is the energy coordinator – The committee didn't do a lot this year because of Hurricane Irene. With other valley committees, the group is participating in Vermont's Home Energy challenge. This involves competition among towns as to how many homes will be weatherized. The program would like to see each town weatherize 3% of their homes, which in Moretown would be 20 homes. This will require considerable volunteer effort. The committee will pursue pledges from residents to complete any kind of energy efficiency in their homes, such as weather stripping, light bulbs, fixing windows. Anne Hoogenboom is participating in the project as part of her Master's Degree in Public Administration. Anne is doing a huge amount of work on this project.

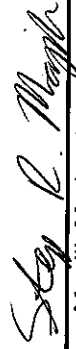
Clark Amadon gave an update on the town office. Clark thanked people working on the town office committee including Jonathan Siegel, John Schmelzter, Diane Costello, Duane Pierson, Ray Daigle and other persons who participated in past meetings. An RFP was published for town office design. There will be a meeting March 6th at 1 p.m. to visit the proposed sites. Site #1: The current site is an option with adequate design to rebuild the office. There is a lot of support to keep the site in the village. Site #2: The second site is on the north side of the parking lot by the recreation area. Site #3: This site is located on the north end by the tennis courts. In terms of the building specifications, the original size is inadequate, and the committee is proposing a 2000 square feet structure to allow modern office space, and provide space for meetings. The vault needs to be larger although many records will be kept electronically. Already firms requested an RFP packet and 17 companies responded so far. They are due Friday the 15th. On April 1st, the committee will recommend a contract award. Firms are asked to prepare design work and provide drawings for bids to construct the building. The selectboard will hold a community forum late summer or early fall. Clark anticipates that a bond issue will be ready for a vote early October or mid November in preparation for construction in 2014. Currently the Town Office is temporarily located in the in the landfill office building at no cost to the town but the town would have to pick up utilities past 2014. \$100,000 accumulated in insurance costs for town hall and town office damage from Hurricane Irene. Although there has been contact with FEMA the town doesn't know what they will reimburse. A town office is not considered a crucial facility so the town is not as eligible as other municipal projects, such as a fire or police station. In terms of actual construction and looking at a significant cost, Clark would like with the right leadership to factor in volunteer effort. The vault costs somewhere near \$60,000. Town office costs range from \$500,000 to \$600,000. Costs are high because municipal buildings have codes and specifications not required by residences. Sarah Zschau suggested that we go to contractor and say we have so much money, what can you build

for us. The committee worked with a consultant, Henry Erickson, who helped with preliminary costs.

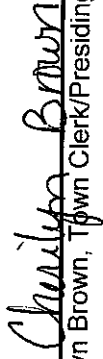
Dave Van Deusen encourages the Board of Civil Authority and selectboard to hold town meetings in the town hall in the future.

Steve Sharp moved to adjourn the meeting. John Schmeltzer seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Dated at Moretown, Vermont this 5th day of March 2013.



Steve Magill, Moderator



Cheryl Brown, Town Clerk/Presiding Officer