

Town of Moretown

Office of the SELECT BOARD

DRAFT – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 1/3/12 selectboard meeting.

Board members present were: Clark Amadon, John Hoogenboom, Stephanie Venema, Tom Martin, and Reed Korrow arrived at 6:20 p.m.

Guests present were: Carl Wimble, Cheryl Brown as assistant for the board

John called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2012 budget work –

General Town Expenses - discussion about reducing the general legal fees to \$5,000.

Law enforcement – discussion about still allocating the same amount of money in the budget and by an article, but contracting with the State Police if they would commit to Moretown, and not necessarily use the services of the Washington County Sheriff's Department. Tom will contact Lt. White about that possibility.

Highway department – Reed will check with Stuart to see what he planned for the \$31,000 request for highway work; where the \$35,000 Stuart estimated is needed to repair a bank slide on the Common Road is budgeted, and if the \$35,000 includes engineering services; and if the Lover's Lane bank stabilization work will be done this year since there was a Better Back Road's grant awarded for \$6,500 to do that work. There was discussion about replacing the Lover's Lane bridge and/or reclassifying the road.

TH# 24 bridge – Stephanie reported that FEMA needs a hydraulic study for the bridge replacement, and an engineer to design the bridge needs. FEMA is coming on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. to talk about the next step to move forward.

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Salaries – discussion about whether or not to give raises this year. The decision was that there will be no raises this year, but Reed wants to talk about giving bonuses at the 1/9/12 meeting. A survey will be done this summer to pole what benefits and salaries other towns offer their employees.

Meeting schedule – **1/9/12** - There will be a special meeting on 1/9/12 to finish the 2012 town budget; town meeting articles; and selectboard reports.

1/16/12 – The next regular selectboard meeting will be held on Monday, 1/16/12.

Articles for Town Meeting 2012 –

Landfill article – In an effort to keep property taxes stable, the selectboard will change the landfill article this year to help offset the town’s share of the road repair costs from Tropical Storm Irene. Last year the land fill article was: to use 52 % of the landfill tipping fees received to lower taxes; put 40 % of the landfill tipping fees received into the Savings Reserve Fund; and put 8% of the landfill tipping fees received into the Capital Reserve Fund. The plan is this year to ask the voter’s approval to divide the landfill tipping fees received so that 62% is deposited into the General Operating Fund to lower the 2012 tax rate, and 38% is deposited into the Savings Reserve Fund, and nothing would be put into the Capital Reserve in 2012. Currently there is about \$174,000 in the Capital Reserve. The Board expects to receive about \$460,000 total in landfill tipping fees in 2012.

Other articles currently being considered are:

Bridge & Culvert Fund - \$10,000 - \$20,000; Law Enforcement - \$5,000; Reappraisal Fund - \$10,000. The board plans to finalize the articles at their 1/9/12 meeting.

Reports, Communication & Announcements:

Susan Goodyear – Letter of resignation from the position of Town Auditor, effective 12/19/11. Susan’s letter went on to suggest that a full CPA audit be done.

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John moved; seconded by Clark to accept Susan Goodyear's resignation as Town Auditor. All were in favor.

Animal control issue – John reported a call from the State Police about a horse running loose and doing property damage. He notified David Cole, Moretown Animal Control Officer.

Stuart Grandfield – Letter from Stuart requesting, that due to circumstances beyond his control namely Tropical Storm Irene, he was unable to take all of his vacation time in 2011, and he would like to carry five days of vacation over into 2012.

Stephanie moved; seconded by John to deny Stuarts request to carry over 2011 vacation time into 2012.

There was general discussion about the request, noting that the majority of the flood repairs that were done by the road crew were finished in October, and winter started late this year, so there may have been time for Stuart to take days off; and it is the Town's policy that no vacation time can be carried over to the next year.

Vote: All were in favor.

Rob Roberts – Letter from Rob resigning from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission effective 12/31/11.

Stephen Vantine – Letter from Mr. Vantine notifying the Town that he has closed and physically blocked off the access points on both ends of the trail that was done on his property, and was used for the Sainsbury's to access their property while the bridge on TH #24 Bridge Road was being put back in. Mr. Vantine's letter goes on to publically thank Raymond Munn and Eric Howes for their politeness and consideration during the creation of the emergency access, as well as their hard work and professionalism during its construction.

2012 PACIF Equipment Grant Program – Matching grants up to \$5,000 are available from VLCT for traffic safety equipment; general safety equipment such as flammable liquids cabinets, etc., due 4/30/12.

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John Hoogenboom – thinks the size of the stones in the road sand is bigger this year. Reed will talk with Stuart.

Public Comment period:

Carl Wimble – Came in to ask about how the flood expenses might impact the 2012 taxes. The board explained that a line item was being added to the budget for the town's 12.5% share of the road repairs from the flood, and about adding 10% more of the landfill tipping fee revenue to the General Operating Fund to lessen the impact of Irene.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Office Study Committee – Clark reported that the committee will meet again on January 5th at the Moretown Elementary School, and gave an overview of the meeting agenda.

Town Office flood damage repair – There hasn't been a formal bid put out for repairs to the town office or the town hall, because it is still unclear what will be chosen as a site for the town offices, therefore it is unclear how to proceed with building repairs. The board authorized Clark to write a letter requesting that VLCT/PACIF extend the deadline for submitting flood related insurance claims another 180 days. The current deadline is 2/29/12.

Town Hall flood damage repair – There was discussion about getting the repairs done, but first the board needs to decide what the town hall will be used for. It was decided that no matter the use, the repairs need to be done. Board members will put together a scope of work so bids can go out. Carl Wimble offered to help outline the repairs. The kitchen appliances can be addressed later.

Blodgett trail survey status – Rob Townsend of American Consulting Engineering & Surveyors, reported that they are nearly finished with the survey. Rob also mentioned that he had tried to reach Calvin Blodgett for the paperwork Cal said he had, but so far hasn't been able to connect. He will try again before finishing up his work.

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Proposal and Resolution regarding Zoning Permits & Curb Cuts –

The board asked VLCT to review the proposal presented by Sheila Getzinger a couple of weeks ago. VLCT attorney Jim Barlow, suggested that the selectboard hold off adopting the proposal until when/if there is an actual problem, stating that Vermont State Statute Title 24/4451 seems to address the issue. Jim is concerned that by adopting the proposal, the selectboard might be creating a document without a problem. Upon VLCT's recommendation, the board tabled any adoption for now.

New Business:

Pennsylvania Power & Light (PP&L) – After agreeing with the Town/State, PP&L's tax bill went out and is due 1/18/12. The amount due is \$62,601. The arrangement was only good for the 2011 taxes though, and so their assessment may change with the town-wide reappraisal being done that will affect the Grand List.

Selectboard reports – for the Town Report are due 1/9/12.

Review invoices and approve warrants –

Invoices were reviewed and warrant's #1 and #2 were approved.

Other documents presented for signature –

Road Maintenance Permit – For Fountains Forestry to do road work on Hog Hollow Road (off the River Road side) for logging.

Stephanie moved; seconded by Reed to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. All were in favor.