

Town of Mooretown
Office of the SELECT BOARD

DRAFT – Unapproved minutes of the 4/16/12 selectboard meeting

Board members present were: Clark Amadon, Reed Korrow, Michelle Beard, John Hoogenboom. Tom Martin was absent tonight.

Guests included: Lise and Don Wexler, Kelly Reagan, Chris Zschau, Caroline Strauss, Don LaRocca, Rae Washburn, Cookie Walbridge, Becky Ciampi, and Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave a brief overview of tonight's meeting agenda.

Public Comment:

Lise Wexler – gave an update on the town office move from the fire station to the Moretown Landfill offices on Route 2. The computers and phone system are scheduled to be installed later this week; we still need a sign identifying the town office location; a table from the old town office needs to be refinished; we need a quote for security bars for the vault room windows; the Mini Mobile unit needs to be removed from the fire station and a press release will go out soon.

Kelly and Chris – came in tonight to talk with the selectboard about using the Moretown recreation fields as an alternate place to play baseball, but it needs some work. Kelly said the sod needs to be removed and clay installed, fence repaired and bases reset. E.A. Grandfield and Meriden Nelson have volunteered time and equipment to remove the sod. Kelly hopes the town will haul the sod away with a town truck, and pick up the clay in New York (near Whitehall), and that the town will donate the cost for materials. The total project cost is estimated to be about \$2,600. Use of the field would need to be coordinated with the recreation department.

Clark moved, seconded by Michelle, to donate \$2,597.00 from the Deeryard Fund to Mad River Valley Little League to renovate the Moretown baseball field.

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Discussion followed – John wants to be sure this renovation does not hinder building a new town office on the property if that site ends up being the choice for a new town office building. Kelly will provide an invoice from the Mad River Little League association for the requisition.

Vote: All were in favor.

Caroline Strauss – came in to talk about the Green Up Vermont event that she is facilitating for the town. The event will happen on Green Up Day, and consists of cleaning up trash on the Mad River corridor. For more information contact Caroline at strauss2@madriver.com

Approval of Minutes:

3/19/12 – Reed moved; seconded by John to approve the minutes of 3/19/12 as written. All were in favor.

4/2/12 – Clark moved; seconded by John to approve the minutes of 4/2/12 as written. All were in favor.

4/9/12 – Reed moved; seconded by John to approve the minutes of 4/9/12 as written.

Discussion – Clark said Scott Sainsbury told him that he was disappointed that the minutes didn't reflect having a written landscaping plan and road work plan for the bridge project. Michelle said the board did not decide anything about having a written plan for landscaping and road work at the last meeting.

Vote: John, Michelle, and Reed were in favor. Clark abstained as he was absent for that meeting. There will be more discussion in old business.

Don LaRocca re: investing the Savings Reserve Fund (SRF) – Don is still interested in discussing investment options for the Saving Reserve Fund (SRF) monies. He said a couple of years ago he spend many hours investigating options for investing monies from the SRF, and is willing to continue investigations now if the board is serious about following through.

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Don thinks the town has two options:

1. Hire an Investment Firm ie: Morgan Stanley tell them what you want for a high return and they will invest accordingly; or
2. Go with a bank – limited risk but lower return

Either way, it is the selectboard's decision as they have the authority to invest town monies without a vote. How much to invest, where to invest is the question. Don is willing to prepare and submit to the board a short plan outlining how to proceed, and the board can either accept or reject the plan.

Reed moved; seconded by Clark, to ask Don to submit an investment plan. Discussion followed that there is plenty of time to address the plan with the people. Vote: All were in favor.

Town Hall repairs – Becky Ciampi and Rae Washburn – came in tonight to see where things stand on the repairs to the town hall. There are several things that need to be addressed including: hot water heater, new water filtration system, kitchen appliances, counter top, cupboards, plumbing, electrical, elevator shaft sheetrock, flooring, wall board.

Rae asked if the building would be brought back to pre-Irene conditions, and what the repair timeline is? Yes, pre-Irene conditions except the board needs to decide on the kitchen. The timeline is July 1st to have the repairs done. Rae and Becky will bring back options for flooring and wall materials. The kitchen work, plumbing, and wiring, will be put out for bid. The other repairs will be done by volunteer labor hopefully. Michelle is applying for a Department of Labor grant that would pay for volunteer skilled labor.

The town has received insurance money for the structural damage, but estimates still need to be submitted for the contents (tables/chairs/appliances). There was discussion about continuing with a “warming” kitchen or pursue options for a kitchen that would support cooking. Becky will contact the State Fire Marshall to see what it would take to make the kitchen a cooking kitchen.

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Bob Grace re: help from the town for flood clean-up costs - Bob said he is one of two owners of Extra Room Storage. They spent about \$9,000 for trash disposal and about \$17,000 in cleanup costs (both of which they hired be done) and Bob is looking for help from the town to offset some of his expenses. He said he figures the town received tipping fees for the trash he took to the Moretown Landfill, and hopes the town would give some of that back to him. Bob also thought Moretown received money from FEMA to help offset the costs for trash cleanup. The majority of the damage was done to the storage units near Vermont Testing on Route 2. Bob said Waterbury paid for the dumpsters in Waterbury.

The Board advised Bob that the Moretown taxpayers did not bear the cost for the numerous dumpsters placed for flood debris removed from businesses and residences along Route 2 or Route 100B, as the disposal costs were paid via donations. The dumpsters were placed for all flood victims to use. The town did not receive money from FEMA for trash removal, and has no idea if the landfill paid Moretown tipping fees for flood debris that came directly from Route 2 residences and businesses. The Board suggested that Bob apply for help from the Mad River Valley Community Fund and/or Revitalize Waterbury to help offset the cleanup costs, and gave Bob the contact information.

Reports & Communication, Announcements –

Friends of the Mad River workshop – on May 10th at Fayston town offices at 8:00 a.m. The workshop will include an overview from Better Backroad Program Projects; Precipitation Forecast for Vermont in Future; an In-Depth look at Best Management Practices promoted by Better Backroads; Flood Recoveries; Flume Demonstration; and lunch from 12:30 – 1:30 of pizza and soda. Questions should be addressed to Caitrin Noel at friends@madriver.com

2007 International dump truck - Reed reported that the transmission needs to be replaced again in the 2007 dump truck. The transmission being replaced only had 9,000 miles on it. Stuart told Reed the repair could cost \$25,000.

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The town will work closely with Clark's International and Allison Transmission to encourage that they cover the repair under warranty.

Carrara's Hot Oil Rustproofing - Bill Bandy dropped of information about hot oil undercoating for trucks and equipment. Stuart will be given the information and asked if he thinks it might be worth undercoating the new equipment trailer. The cost would be about \$200.

Friends of the Mad River – Caitrin Noel – Michelle reported that volunteers are needed to clean up the Mad River Corridor, and Caitrin wonders if the town is willing to help with trucking or with dumpsters. Michelle will tell Caitrin to ask the Mad River Community Fund if they might be willing to donate dumpsters. If they say no, come back to the board.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall Study Committee report – Clark gave an update from the last meeting.

- The old town office is in the flood plain – the damage was over 50%- a zoning permit/mitigation is needed for any repairs
- The town hall does not need a zoning permit to put the building to pre-flood condition
- The tennis court area is a possible site for a new town office. It is above the flood plain and wasn't flooded during Irene. Duane dismissed the traffic/safety issues. Diane Costello is checking into ownership of the land.
- Fox Farm Run is one access to the town's property which borders South Hill Road. To house a town office there would mean a change of use of the private road, and getting power to the site.
- The school is interested in using the old town office for a day care.
- The town garage would require extensive renovations to retrofit the building for town offices, and the expense would be significant.

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The committee meets next on 4/26/12. They hope to eliminate sites – talk about getting more professional engineering services.

Clark moved; seconded by Michelle, to enter into executive session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations whereby premature public knowledge would clearly place the town or persons involved at a disadvantage. All were in favor.

Clark moved; seconded by John, to come out of executive session at 8:10 p.m. All were in favor.

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) representative for Moretown – Steve Sharp has indicated that he is willing to attend the TAC /CVRPC meetings.

John moved; seconded by Clark to appoint Steve Sharp as Moretown’s representative on the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. All were in favor.

2nd Constable appointment – Announcements went out for the need to fill vacancies on town boards and in town offices. A date/time for interviews will be scheduled in May. Raymond Munn has indicated that he is no longer interested in being appointed 2nd Constable.

Town garage door – Stuart mentioned replacing the one damaged door with a plain brown overhead door, as the cost for the repair would be significantly lower. The selectboard would like the overhead door repaired as is, with the cedar trim.

Bridge #41 replacement – More discussion followed about Scott Sainsbury’s request to have an agreement in writing for a landscaping and dust control (for Spillway Road) plan.

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Michelle said she fully respects and supports tree plantings, but in light of the fact that the town has not paid for other landscaping/planting damages resulting from the flood, suggested that the board contact the Friends of the Mad River (Caitrin Noel) about free plantings.

Reed thinks the board needs to talk with DuBois & King before anything is done, to find out their specific plan for landscaping and for road work.

The board agreed that rather than create a landscaping and dust control plan that a site visit be done when the contracted work is done, and go from there.

Class IV road work - Discussion about what/when class IV roads will receive maintenance; and about a policy for class IV road residents getting material for class IV roads. This topic will be placed on the 5/7/12 agenda.

New Business: None tonight

Review invoices; other documents and sign warrants

Letter to Pat Loiselle/Road Maintenance Permit – was approved.

Overload permits were approved as submitted.

Liquor License for Junipers Fare Café

2012 Annual Financial Plan was approved

Warrant #'s 25 & 26 were approved

Clark moved; seconded by Reed, to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. All were in favor.