

**Town of Moretown
Office of the SELECT BOARD**

Draft - Notice of unapproved minutes of the 10/15/12 Selectboard meeting

Board members present: Tom Martin, Clark Amadon, Reed Korrow, Michelle Beard, John Hoogenboom

Guests included: John Cronin, Scott Baughman, Adam Greshin, Dean Moulton, Gary Kingsbury, Brad Belknap, Duane Pierson, and Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

Tom called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

Adam Greshin – spoke about running as a State Representative for Moretown as an Independent. The District includes Moretown, Waitsfield, Fayston, Duxbury, and Warren. Adam said he has already served two terms, and worked on the Ways & Means Committee for three years. He plans to focus on affordability; consumer protection for senior citizens; energy issues; and agriculture.

Approval of meeting minutes:

10/1/12 – John moved; seconded by Michelle to approve the minutes of 10/1/12 as written. All were in favor.

Draft – unapproved minutes of 10/15/12 selectboard meeting

Reports & Communication, Announcements

Margaret Frye re: Buska buy-out request - Moretown received a letter dated 10/8/12 from Legal Services Law Line of Vermont attorney Margaret Frye, asking the selectboard to reconsider their 10/1/12 decision not to apply for a Hazard Mitigation Grant to buy-out the Route 100B Buska property.

There was discussion that there is no guarantee at this time that there are no soil contaminants involved with the property. If FEMA would have agreed to pay for any clean-up costs that might have been necessary after a study of the property the board may have considered the buy-out, but given there are no answers at this time and there wasn't enough time to investigate the program between the request and the letter of intent due date, the 10/1 decision stands.

Road Crew attended an Advanced Welding workshop – provided by Vermont Local Roads.

Martin Cameron, Wade Hastings, and Rodney Huntoon attended the advanced welding workshop on 9/27/12.

Dara Torre – re: Central Vermont Regional Planning Committee – Transportation Committee (TAC) - Dara sent a letter of interest to co-serve on the CVRPC (TAC) Transportation Committee with Steve Sharp.

Clark moved; seconded by Tom to appoint Dara Torre to co-serve on the CVRPC TAC Committee with Steve Sharp. All were in favor.

E911 Coordinator – Shane Grace submitted mileage for E-911 work. It is unclear if Shane has submitted mileage prior or what the \$50 he receives for each new 911 address is for. The board will review the records before the mileage is paid.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 10/15/12 selectboard meeting

10/4/12 VLCT Town Fair – John will give an update at the 11/5 meeting.

Phantom Roads presentation by Dean Moulton – Dean presented a map and various information and articles relating to ancient and phantom roads, from the State of Vermont and Yankee magazine. Dean told about where phantom roads have recently been discovered and that towns need to take steps to locate ancient roads and either discontinue them or put them on highway maps.

Moretown's attorney Paul Gillies with help from volunteers, did a search to see if there were any ancient roads in Moretown. Paul found no ancient roads in his search. The search was paid for with a \$5,000 Ancient Roads lookup grant.

Dean provided concerns he has regarding unidentified roads, and with the class IV roads and trails policy adopted. Because there are a two or three class IV roads where the definitive location can't be identified by the current road foreman, Dean thinks they should be placed in Group B category of the policy. Other areas of concern include: how properties with public roads through them are being taxed; are landowners aware of roads on their property; are landowners treated equally; are any changes to old roads being identified; if someone uses a "road" on someone else's property, will it be considered a town road if it isn't disputed?

Couples Club field – Gary Kingsbury and Brad Belknap said the field, used for soccer and baseball etc., was formed by the non-profit Couples Club. It costs about \$4,400 per year to operate the field, most of the cost being mowing, is paid for by donations. Gary said each year they are short. They would like a donation of \$2,000 from four valley towns. Gary said 36% of the kids using the field are from Moretown.

There was discussion about the work that was done to the Moretown baseball field last year, and the pavilion that was built.

Gary and Brad were told that a petition is necessary to have an article on the town meeting warning, with 5% of Moretown legal voter signatures, and that petitions are due to the town clerk by 1/24/2013. The article would be voted by the floor, so it would be helpful to have someone at town meeting in case there were questions.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 10/15/12 selectboard meeting

Duane Pierson –

Maintenance of the school parking lot – Duane realizes the town is maintaining the school parking lot this year, but he would like a commitment from the selectboard to do it for longer.

Reed said we did agree to do the maintenance this year, and Martin will see how it goes, keep track of the costs, and thinks we should look at it again next spring before committing.

Duane reminded the selectboard that the school budget for the following year, and is done in January.

Tom said the town wants to work with the school, and will bring up the topic again in December after Martin has had some time to see how it's going.

Maintenance of parking lot entrance by the Methodist Church - Duane said there are pot holes in driveway and wonders if the road crew could fill them in.

The driveway is owned by the Methodist Church so the board will talk to David Peterson or Mary Murphy Blake to be sure it is ok for the town fill in the holes.

Posting of land – K – 6th grade students have a program every Monday, with the North Branch Nature Center to teach them about the outdoors. They use the woods behind the school for the program.

There was discussion about how to best notify hunters of the Monday program. Duane will put up awareness signage that students will be in the woods every Monday and to post the same on Front Porch Forum.

Safety Zone signage has already been put up.

K-6 Haunted House for Halloween – Duane reported discussions about having a K-6 Haunted House for Halloween in Moretown.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 10/15/12 selectboard meeting

One suggestion was having it at the school, but concerns were raised about having that type of scary function in the school. Another suggestion was having it in the downstairs of the town hall, but since construction is still going on that might not be a good idea either. Duane asked if it would be possible to use the town office building for a haunted house. The event would be sponsored by the school and held from 6-8 p.m.

The selectboard had no problem with the school using the building as long as the towns insurance was ok with it. Cheryl will check and get back to Duane.

OLD BUSINESS:

Temporary Road help – Tom spoke with Martin Cameron, who said there were five or six people who applied for plowing roads this winter on a temporary help basis, but not as an on call basis. Martin would like to hire Meriden Nelson as an on call person, for \$19 per hour to snowplow with the town pickup as needed.

Reed moved; seconded by John, to follow Martin and Norm's suggestions and hire Meriden Nelson on an on call basis as a snow plow worker for \$19 per hour. All were in favor.

Blodgett appeal on Select Board decision update – A bench trial was requested by the Town via Paul Gilles. If Blodgett agrees, the following schedule will be followed: statements from both the town and Blodgett are due to the court by November 1st; all evidence must be filed by January 1, 2013; parties must choose a mediator and disclose expert witnesses by February 1, 2013; pre-trial motions are due by June 1, 2013; and this matter must be mediated by June 1st. Parties will split mediation costs. The case will be trial ready by July 1, 2013.

Tom will contact Paul Gillies for an estimate of what should be budgeted for 2013 for this legal matter.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 10/15/12 selectboard meeting

Bridge #41 – The bridge project has been approved by FEMA as an Improved Project and funding was secured, so now the construction can begin. Because of the five week delay to secure FEMA funding, the contractor suggested delaying the project until spring, saying that pouring the cement in winter would require covering it (tenting) and there would be additional costs.

After a discussion that holding off with the project would more than likely result in additional costs anyway because of an increase in materials, the board decided to move forward with the project now. Tom will call Evan Detrick at DuBois & King and ask him to let Austin Construction know to move forward with the bridge project, and that the project must be completed no later than 2/28/13. The original completion date was 12/7/12. Austin Construction will provide a quote for “tenting” the cement.

Hurdle Road stop sign - John is still working on getting the hedge trimmed so the stop sign can be clearly seen.

Road Department Goals & Expectations – Reed reported that Martin and Norm are working on this.

Town Office committee news – Clark said hopefully Steve Garten will attend the next committee meeting on 10/18/12, to talk about what the town needs to do to get FEMA funding for a permanent town office project. Clark would like to meet with Steve and Cheryl prior to the 10/18 meeting.

Public Forum 10/29/12 – There was discussion about who would introduce each of the four forum topics; Class IV Roads & Trails Policy; Investment Policy; Sidewalk Improvements; and Town Office sites. The forum will be at the town hall beginning at 7:00 p.m.

New Business: There will be a flood resiliency meeting on 10/24/12 at the town hall. More information can be found at moretown.vt.org

Invoices were reviewed and warrants were signed.

Tom moved; seconded by John to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. All were in favor.