

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

Draft – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 2/4/13 selectboard meeting

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

Guests included: Cherilyn Lamson, Scott Baughman, Lisa Ransom, Steve Sharp, Jonathan Siegel, Deborah Feldman, Sasha Elwell and Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

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

Public Comment: There was no one present for public comment at this time.

Approval of Minutes: John moved, seconded by Michelle to approve the minutes of 1/21/13 as written. John, Michelle, Tom and Reed were in favor. Clark abstained as he was absent for the meeting. Motion passed.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATION, MAIL:

Elizabeth Tarno letter re: road condition complaint – Ms. Tarno’s letter said; on Monday, December 10th there was deep snow, slush and loose gravel on the Moretown Mountain Road, making it difficult to navigate. She then encountered the grader in the process of grading the road. Ms. Tarno said she was forced to drive around the grader and to cross a tall mound of graded road material in the process. Eventually she was able to pass the area and get home. Later that evening while headed to Northfield, she encountered the grader again. The road was torn up and full of loose slushy gravel. Two days later the engine warning light went on in her car and upon investigation the mechanic discovered that a protective cover on the underside of the car had been bent and was pressing against an electronic panel causing the light to go on. It was clear to her that the damage to her car was due to the grading.

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Ms. Tarno would like the town to pay the costs of the repairs to her car, totaling \$1,300.

Discussion followed that Ms. Tarno chose to go over the mound in the road a second time and by the sounds of it that is when the damage to her car happened. The board will send Ms. Tarno a letter saying they are sorry she encountered the repairs to her vehicle, but that the town cannot be responsible for damage to vehicles done by motorists who choose to drive over piled material during the maintenance of roads.

Reed has a copy of the letter that he will pass along to Martin so is aware of the complaint.

\$37,334.70 was received from VTrans from a Structure Grant, given to the Town to offset the shortfall in the FEMA payment for two box culverts on the Ward Brook Road destroyed during Tropical Storm Irene. The board asked Cherilyn to put ½ of the money into the Bridge & Culvert Fund to help offset flood repairs and ½ into the General Fund.

\$6,000.00 was received from a Historic Preservation Grant – for work done to the town hall in 2008. Reimbursement for the work was never requested until now. The board asked Cherilyn to put this money with the insurance money being reserved for the replacement of the town office.

Insurance money in reserve for the town office - Cherilyn asked the board for permission to move the insurance reserves (about \$104,000) from the Capital Reserve to its own account. She will put the \$6,000 into the same account so it is also earmarked for the new town office. The board approved.

Steve Sharp re: changes to the website: Steve provided an outline of ideas for enhancing Moretown's website. Discussion followed about the items listed and about services that possibly could be added to the website now (ie: online dog licensing). Discussion followed that there should be no loss in revenue and there should be no expense to the town for services offered via the town website. Cherilyn and Steve will meet to discuss this further.

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OTHER BUSINESS:

Hurdle Road re: STOP sign visibility - An email was received from Ralf Bullock from VTrans, after his inspection of the stop sign adjacent to the Frank Piazza property on Hurdle Road. Mr. Bullock said the stop sign on the northern intersection is not in State compliance due to cedar trees that need to be trimmed back considerably.

Reed will give Martin a copy of Mr. Bullock’s email. John will contact Frank and let him know that the road crew will be trimming the cedars.

Town Office news – Clark reported that the town hall committee has narrowed the search for a new town office site down to two sites. One being the old town office site (second story); the second being the playground site. The committee feels the two MLI sites are off the table because of the long-term risk for contamination. The Kingsbury site would need extensive site and traffic work.

Henry Erickson will prepare a draft design for a request for proposal (RFP) to build a second story onto the old town office and one to build a building that would basically work on any site. The design will be based on a 1500 sq. ft. building which includes a 200 sq. ft. vault. Clark updated Ben Rose and Thad Leugemors of the town’s plan to get RFP’s.

The board approved that Clark have a conversation with Mike DiMaggio about increasing the time the town office can stay at MLI.

August 2014 is FEMA’s deadline to submit all expenses related to the town office flood work. There was discussion that FEMA support could be minimal because insurance proceeds would be deducted from any amount eligible.

Cherilyn expressed concerns about the town office being in the village, because of town records that were damaged by Irene to the extent that some are barely readable even after being professionally restored, and the fear of that happening again.

Clark said the area near the tennis courts is above the flood zone and even more so if you go back into the hillside.

Deborah spoke about being fiscally responsible. She thinks with the declining enrollment that the school is the place for the town office, especially if the enrollment continues to decline and the State becomes involved.

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Jonathan remembers when the addition to the Moretown Elementary School was added around 1994, added to hold about 200 students overall. The enrollment continues to decline and currently about 100 students are enrolled. Jon suggested talking with MLI about the possibility of the town office staying there for another five years, allowing the town time to see if the enrollment continues to decline and what the outcome of the landfill will be.

Next: Clark will talk with MLI about staying in this building longer and he will pass along Henry's draft design for the RFP when he get it, so the board has a chance to look at it prior to their 2/19 meeting.

MLI news – Tom reported talking with Mike DeMaggio about reaching out to people about expenses they might have incurred due to odors from the landfill causing them to leave their homes. Tom said Mike did reach out and a couple of people have submitted expense receipts, but he doesn't know whether or not MLI has paid the people.

Lisa Ransom said no one from MLI has reached out to them. All communication remains via attorney. She indicated that they left their home on occasion and stayed with Scott's family due to the odors. She may submit gas receipts for reimbursement.

New Business:

Log truck running during school bus hours on Jones Brook Rd – The board received a complaint of a log truck owned by Scott Fisk traveling at 7:08 a.m. this morning on Jones Brook Road and nearly running that person off the road.

School bus hours are from 6:45 – 7:45 a.m. and 3:00-4:00 p.m. so the Fisk truck was on the road during school bus hours.

Fisk was reminded before about the school bus restrictions, so this is the second offense. Cheryl was instructed to write Scott Fisk a letter, notifying him that the selectboard has revoked his overload permit.

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Town Meeting presentation preparation -

- Clark will give an update on the status on the search for a permanent town office.
- Reed is prepared to answer any road/highway questions that come up.
- Tom will prepare a report of the town budget for the board to look at.
- An update on the status of the landfill will be given.

Invoices were reviewed and warrants were approved as presented.

Overload permits were signed for B.L. Roy Trucking; Scott Brown; and P&L Loggers.

Duxbury Fire Contract – The yearly contract which provides the Town of Duxbury with fire protection services from Moretown was signed by the board and will be forwarded for Duxbury’s selectboard to sign. The \$3,000 contract fee is put into the General Fund and used as revenue to lower the municipal tax rate.

VLCT/PACIF – The board signed a letter that will be sent to VLCT, requesting another 180 day extension to submit flood related claims for the town hall and for the town office. The current deadline for the town hall was 2/21/13; and 8/21/13 for the town office.

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

NOTE: Because of the Presidents Day holiday, the next selectboard meeting will be on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH. Maxine Grad and Adam Greshin will be present to talk with the board about financial impacts to the Town should the landfill close.