

Town of Moretown
Office of the SELECT BOARD

Notice of unapproved minutes of the 8/19/13 Selectboard meeting

Board members present were: John Hoogenboom, Michelle Beard, Rae Washburn, Reed Korrow

Guests included: Lisa Ransom & Scott Baughman, Raymond Munn, Sean O'Brien, Tanya Chambers and Vicky Abare from VLCT, Suzanne Austin, Clark Amadon, Denise Gabaree, Sandra Reagan, Sarah Fulton, Cheryl Brown as board assistant

John called the meeting to order and gave an overview of tonight's agenda.

Public Comment:

Raymond Munn –

New speed signage in the village – Raymond likes the new signage. He said he can already see that cars are slowing down.

Speeding on Moretown Common Rd. – Raymond spoke about speeding on Moretown Common in the early morning and late in the afternoon. He said it is worse in the morning. Cheryl will contact the Washington County Sheriff's Department and ask that they step-up a patrol on the Common Rd. and on Jones Brook Rd., as Rae reported speeding on Jones Brook Rd. too, especially in late afternoon.

Minutes:

7/29/13 - Michelle moved, seconded by Rae to approve the 7/29/13 minutes as written. John, Michelle and Rae were in favor. Reed abstained from voting.

Approval of the 8/5/13 minutes was tabled until 9/3/13.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 8/19/13 selectboard meeting

Reports & Communication, Announcements:

Selectboard meet with ANR re: the Consent Order and Judgement Order

Agreement between MLI and ANR – The Selectboard did not have the opportunity to partake in the discussions between ANR and MLI regarding the “Agreement”, so they requested a meeting with ANR to find out more about it.

John announced that the Selectboard will be meeting with George Desch and Alyssa Schuren of DEC/ANR on Friday, August 23rd. The meeting will be warned in case a quorum of the Selectboard is present.

VLCT Town Fair will be on 10/3/13 – John plans to attend again this year.

Email from Clayton Wetzel re: traffic on Herring Brook Rd – Clayton’s email tells

of excessive traffic last Saturday night (8/17/13) and his concerns about what activities are going on and the lack of law enforcement presence. The email was originally sent to Lt. White of the Middlesex State Police, and to Moretown’s 1st Constable Dave Van Deusen. The selectboard was copied. Clayton’s email also suggested traffic counters be placed on Herring Brook to identify the amount of traffic the road gets.

In a return email to Clayton from Paul White, Lt. White suggests calling dispatch to report such incidents at the time they are happening so if need be officers can respond.

In a return email to Clayton from Dave Van Deusen, Dave said the trucks passed by his house with what looked like camp wood in the back, and one passed through later in the night. Dave felt neither vehicle was unreasonably loud.

There was general discussion that the State Law changed that empowered what a constable can do, and now constables have very little enforcement powers.

Cheryl will contact CVRPC and ask if they would be willing to put up traffic counters on Herring Brook Road and on Jones Brook Road, that indicate the type, speed, and time of vehicle traffic.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 8/19/13 selectboard meeting

Grow Compost NOAV's - The town received copies of two Notice of Alleged Violation (NOAV) for Grow Compost. The NOAV's were as follows:

1. Dated July 1, 2013 for discharge of compost leachate to waters of the state and violations of construction and operational conditions of their certifications, plans, and stormwater permits.
2. Dated July 26, 2013 for objectionable off-site odors. DEC staff investigated complaints and observed objectionable compost odors off-site on multiple occasions.

It was noted that Grow Compost responded to the NOAV's quickly.

Grow Compost – re: Amendments to the July 2013 Facility Management Plan. A revised Management Plan has been received dated August 2013.

Environmental Court Notice of conference call on 8/19/13 - re: Proposed Clarification of a Proposed Order filed on 8/15/13 by Scott Baughman and Lisa Ransom in response to the Consent Order between MLI & State.

Tom Martin participated on the conference call but was unable to attend tonight's meeting to report to the board.

Lisa Ransom said some of the language in the Consent Order was amended.

Tanya Chambers and Vicky Abare from VLCT re: insurance matters

Health Insurance - Tanya gave an overview of the town's current health insurance plan Blue Care 2000/4000, and rates; and plans and rates that will be available in 2014 from Vermont Health Connect via Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) and MVP, the only two providers there will be. The following steps will need to be taken in order to have health insurance:

- The town must provide all current employees with a written notice about the federal laws concerning Vermont Health Connect (VHC) by the end of September. The town may choose not to offer health insurance to employees who work (part time) less than 30 hrs. week.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 8/19/13 selectboard meeting

- The town must decide whether or not to limit employees' choice of carrier (BCBS or MVP) by October.
- The town must determine how much it will contribute to an employees' health plan, and how the contribution will be structured, and then notify the employees of what the town's contribution will be by the end of October.
- Employees need to log onto VHC, set up an account, choose a plan, and enroll in the plan of their choice. If the town chose a carrier the employee must choose a plan that carrier offers. This must be done by the end of November 2013. Any portion of premium employees have that they need to pay via payroll deduction (to reimburse the town, as all invoices come to the town as they do now), will have to be arranged with the payroll administrator before the first pay cycle in January of 2014.
- In December 2013, the town will receive an invoice from the State. That invoice must be paid prior to 1/1/14. The invoice will include all covered employees and all plans and carriers.

John Hoogenboom will take the lead on the health insurance.

Liability Insurance needs for the fire department- At a prior meeting, the question was asked if firefighters who drove directly to fires by their own vehicles and were in an accident, were covered under the town's insurance.

Vicky came in tonight to explain and to answer questions from the fire department. She explained that the town's insurance PACIF provided through VLCT would be the secondary insurance if there was an auto accident. Once a person's own liability auto insurance reached its limits, then the town's insurance would cover another party (ie: firefighter) liability. Vicky said at this time, VLCT has no plans to offer primary insurance to firefighters vehicles.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 8/19/13 selectboard meeting

When asked his opinion, Sean explained that according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), no private vehicles should be on scene, so the protocol that started last February is everyone comes to the fire station. Sean doesn't think the time difference to respond to a scene is significant. If there is a fire a distance from the fire station and a firefighter is already close to the scene, then maybe a firefighter may go to the scene in their personal vehicle, but that has only happened once or twice since the protocol was originated. He doesn't see the need to change the current insurance.

Clark Amadon – came in to give the board an update on the town office project, and to ask the selectboard to approve that an RFP be done for an environmental assessment, the next step that must be done before the project can move forward. The board approved the town office committee handle the RFP process, but if the quotes for the environmental assessment come back with a cost over \$5,000, the work will have to wait until after a town vote because the money budgeted for 2013 (\$12,000) has already been spent for cost analysis and for conceptual designs.

Discussion followed that the plans are to have a public meeting two weeks or so prior to the vote, which they plan to have around November 5th of this year. The vote would be for a not to exceed amount with the explanation that over 75% of the project cost would be paid for by the Community Development Block Grant (\$700,000) that was awarded to the town last week.

Raymond Munn asked about using some of the money in the reserve fund for the town's part of the town office project. Ray was told that between now and November, the board will make some decisions about to pay for the rest of the project.

Clark noted that he doesn't have an answer about the capacity for the school water and septic yet, but he will check on that this week.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 8/19/13 selectboard meeting

Historical Society members Denise Gabaree, Sandra Reagan, and Sarah Holland came in tonight to ask the selectboard what their plans are for the old town office building. The Historical Society has quite an extensive collection of Moretown History and they would like to have a place to display it, so they thought they would ask what the plans were for the building.

The board explained that no decision has been made yet about what will happen with the old town office. It has been mentioned about using the building for an indoor farmer’s market/café; the town has applied for a buy-out grant which if awarded, would require that the town demolish the building and make a green space or move the building to another location out of the floodplain.

Discussion followed about the Moretown Historical Society having space in a town building. Now they are located upstairs in the Library, which isn’t handicapped accessible. Perhaps there could be room in the new town office for them to display Moretown’s history. Rae will bring that question up at the next town office committee meeting.

Because the board would like public input before making a decision, the question about what the taxpayers would like to see happen with the old town office building will be put on Moretown Front Porch Forum requesting public comment.

OLD BUSINESS:

Status of tipping fee payment request to MLI/Advanced Disposal - Since Tom was unable to attend tonight, the discussion was tabled until there is a full board.

Waste disposal – There was discussion about where to take waste, recycling in particular. A bulletin from the State is posted on the moretownvt.org website and at the town office, listing commercial trash haulers and waste disposal facilities.

Lisa Ransom said they take all organic waste (less the stickers etc. such as what is on bananas) at Grow Compost. People can bring the waste in 5 gallon pails to the “gray” shack at the facility.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 8/19/13 selectboard meeting

Snowplowing the school parking lot – There was discussion about the costs incurred by the town last year to maintain the school parking lot. At an earlier meeting, Martin said a significant part of his salt budget last year was used for maintaining the school parking lot. The town isn't snowplowing class IV roads this year, so it is possible that the town can avoid having to hire temporary help this winter.

Rae moved that the town will not snowplow or maintain the Moretown Elementary School parking lot this year. John seconded.

Discussion followed that the town agreed to snowplow the school yard for one year only to see what the cost to the town was going to be. The selectboard wondered if the expense was placed in the school budget again this year, as apparently it was in last year's school budget. Cheryl will ask Michelle Baker of WWSU.

Vote: All were in favor.

Class IV Road Committee members – Michelle resigned from the class IV road committee, saying she is on the host town committee and Rae, John and Reed are on the class IV committee, so she feels comfortable resigning.

Cheryl will let Dave Van Deusen know that the class IV road committee plans to meet on September 9th, at the town hall at 5:30, and that he and Angela are welcome to attend.

NEW BUSINESS:

Selectboard meeting schedule for September – Because Labor Day falls on the first Monday of the month the schedule for regular Selectboard meetings for September will be: Tuesday, September 3rd; and Monday, September 16th.

Water problem in the town hall kitchen – Earlier tonight Becky showed Rae where water is coming into the kitchen from behind the counters. Rae gave Becky permission to have someone investigate where the leak is coming from.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 8/19/13 selectboard meeting

John moved to enter into executive session at 8:29 p.m. for employee related matters, where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the town and the person(s) involved at a substantial disadvantage. Michelle 2nd. All were in favor.

Rae moved to come out of executive session at 8:43 p.m. Michelle 2nd. All were in favor.

The Selectboard has no objection with Cherilyn helping out with a “Calcutta” fundraiser for Rodney and Jessie Huntoon, to help out with expenses associated with Jessie’s recovery.

Invoices were reviewed and warrant # 44, 45, 46 and 47 were approved as presented.

John moved; Reed seconded to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. All were in favor.

