

**Town of Moretown
Office of the Select Board**

Draft – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 10/7/13 Selectboard meeting

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

Guests included: Lisa Ransom, Scott Baughman, Martha Douglass, Andy Carlo of Fountains Forestry, Dara Torre, Carl Wimble, and Cheryl Brown as board assistant

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

Public Comment Period – There was no public comment at this time

Approval of Minutes –

8/23/13 – John moved; Rae seconded to approve the minutes of 8/23/13 as written (by Michelle). John, Rae and Michelle were in favor. Tom was absent tonight; and Reed did not attend the 8/23/13 meeting. Motion passed.

9/16/13 – Rae moved; Michelle seconded to approve the minutes of 9/16/13 as clarified by John; that the State pays \$20 per person per month for Vermont Health Connect insurance broker services, and then includes \$13 per person to the monthly invoice sent to the town, to recover a portion of the money they paid out. All were in favor of approving the minutes with John's clarification about broker fees.

9/30/13 – Michelle moved; Reed seconded to approve the minutes of 9/30/13 as written. All were in favor.

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Reports, Communications & Announcements –

Homestead penalty for Burt – Elizabeth and Charles Burt purchased their home at 2848 Moretown Common Road on May 9th 2013. The August 8, 2013 tax bill included a penalty for filing a late Homestead Declaration. Since the Burt's were not the owners as of April 1st, they should not have been charged the penalty, and therefore have requested the town refund them \$581.78. A copy of the Property Transfer proving their ownership of the property was in fact after 4/1/13, accompanied the request.

John moved; Michelle seconded to refund the Burt's the penalty for filing a late homestead declaration, as part of their 2013 Property Tax invoice. All were in favor.

Rachel Sargent dog bite – Rachel sent the board an email notifying them she was bitten by a dog owned by Dave Van Deusen and Angela Ogle, while jogging past their Lynch Hill residence. Rachel's email provided an accounting of the incident, her conversation with Shane Grace (Moretown's Animal Control Officer), and with Angela and Dave, saying she wrote the email so the incident was on record.

There was discussion that Rachel did not require medical attention as the skin wasn't broken; the dogs still aren't registered but apparently are vaccinated against rabies; and whether or not Shane was satisfied after talking with the owners that the dogs are now under control. Shane was unable to attend tonight, but Cheryl asked him to email the board with his feelings.

Dave will be sent a copy of the Animal Control Ordinance for starters.

Town insurance renewal – The renewal application for the town's insurance is due. After a brief discussion, the board decided to stay with the Vermont League of Cities & Town's (PACIF) for insurance coverage in 2014. Cheryl will provide VLCT with the renewal application information.

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Survey of the Town Hall property – A survey of the town hall lands was done by American Consulting Engineer and Surveyors. The survey indicates that the town owns to the Mad River in the back of the building; to Fletcher Road on the side; to Route 100B in the front; and on John and Kim Summer’s side, the distance between the town hall building and the Summer’s boundary line is about 10’ in the front, and closer yet in the back corner. The survey will be recorded.

Neal Mostov – Report that Neal commented on the stored river gravel being spread onto South Hill Road. Neal isn’t happy that the gravel that showed Japanese knotweed growth was spread on South Hill.

There was discussion that Martin attended workshops about how to eradicate the knotweed, and that he is confident he can handle any new growth that shows up.

Employee Health Insurance – There was discussion about the 2013 budget and how to keep the health insurance coverage about the same through Vermont Health Connect (VHC) without increasing the 2014 budget. Numbers were compared from last year’s budget versus the Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) plans available through VHC in 2014.

John moved that the town will pay up to the Platinum Single Plan premium through BCBS for a single plan; and for the 2-person plan the town will pay up to the Platinum Single Plan premium for the employee, plus ½ of the single plan price for the dependent. The town will also put up to \$1,250 in a Health Reimbursement Account for single plans, and \$1,875 in for 2-person plans, which will be administered by BCBS. Michelle seconded.

Discussion: this will result in a net budget increase of \$1,345 for 2014 at the most, and possibly less if employees don’t have to use all of the funds deposited in their HRA. Any unused HRA monies would be refunded to the town.

Vote: All were in favor.

Cheryl will let Craig Eilers know about the town’s contribution.

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OLD BUSINESS:

Allowance of BYOB at town hall rental events – The question came up about the town’s liability coverage if BYOB’s were allowed in the town hall. VLCT said the town’s insurance provides the town with liability coverage for liquor on municipal property. However they prefer that any alcohol be served by a licensed caterer since the risk would fall to the caterer rather than the towns insurance. If a caterer is used, the town should proof of insurance for the liquor liability.

Michelle recommended adopting the VLCT language for serving liquor, and to be sure we are getting insurance information from the caterer.

More old business later

Andy Carlo of Fountains Forestry was asked to come in tonight, because a month or so ago waterbars were installed in Herring Brook Road by Fountains contractor, so big that people couldn’t travel the road with their vehicle to access their property. The board wanted to reiterate to Andy that prior to work being done in a town right of way, a permit from the town was needed.

Andy apologized for the oversight, saying his forester forgot to contact the town, and that the waterbars were also a conflict with Fountains policy because they were too big, so Fountains had them fixed to meet the town’s approval. Andy said it wouldn’t happen again. Before leaving Andy stated that the Herring Brook to Lynch Hill loop is in pretty bad shape.

Dara Torre asked to be on tonight’s agenda to talk with the board about a few things.

1. **Sidewalk grant** - The town was awarded a 2013 VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Program grant for \$375,000, to design and construct 1729 LF of sidewalk on the east side of Route 100B in the village from the Mountain Road to Hurdle Road. The town’s share of the project will be about \$37,500 (10%). Dara said we will need a project manager to oversee the bid process etc., and she will talk with Steve Gladzuc from CVRPC about helping out. Michelle moved to accept the \$375,000 Bike & Pedestrian grant and look into paying the town’s share from within the town budget; in kind services; and from the Deeryard Fund. Reed seconded. All were in favor.

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- 2. Moretown's Representative for the CVRPC** – Dara reported that Deb Sargent is no longer able to serve as Moretown's representative on the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC). Dara said she is willing to take Deb's place. Dara explained about the proposed merger between CVRPC and CVEDC. She is in favor of the merger and will vote as such at tomorrow night's meeting, but before she can vote she would need to be appointed.

Rae moved to appoint Dara Torre as Moretown's representative on the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. John seconded. All were in favor.

- 3. Auditing Moretown's financials** – Dara said she and Rita LaRocca will begin auditing the town financials about the end of this month.

More old business:

Kelley Brook Trail work – Rae brought up that he looked at the area of Kelley Brook Trail again with Jeff Ladue, where someone made a ditch in the trail. Rae said Martin agreed that the town should probably put ditch fill etc., in the trail. Rae said the trail was worked on without the town's permission, probably by another landowner. Rae believes Martin is working in that area now.

Michelle asked how we could fix the trail and still be in compliance with the Class IV Road & Trail Policy.

Reed thinks we would be covered under the new revision to the policy, since ditching material would be used.

Rae moved to authorize Martin to restore Kelley Brook Trail near Bill Coon's driveway by putting in a used culvert and ditch waste material, to be done at Martin's convenience. John seconded.

Discussion followed: Michelle said we adopted a policy that we weren't going to work on trails, for financial reasons.

John asked what we are doing to the landowner who worked on the trail without a permit. John retracted his second.

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More discussion: Rae said we are already leveling out fill from ditch work, when we dump it on people's property to get rid of it, and fixing this ditch isn't going to cost anything. Michelle didn't realize that the town was already leveling off ditch material when they dumped it on peoples property.

John seconded Rae's motion again. Vote: All were in favor.

Mad River Valley Planning District – John attends the meetings, but said Moretown doesn't contribute "district". He thinks Moretown should consider joining.

Dara believes post Irene, that people are aware that Moretown is stronger now because of the valley town's help during that difficult time.

John will in invite members from the MRVPD Steering Committee to the 11/4/13 selectboard meeting to talk about Moretown's support.

Sullivan, Powers audit recommendations – were reviewed. Several have been addressed, some the board chooses not to address such as their suggestion not to budget for anticipated revenue from delinquent taxes.

The board will ask Cherilyn to comment on the recommendations.

Tipping fee litigation status – John reported that our attorney will be calling Advanced Disposal/MLI attorney on Wednesday.

New town office – Carl thinks the playground site is a poor location and thinks other sites should be looked at, perhaps the tennis court area. He thinks we should be good stewards of the grant money, and don't place a building where it could get flooded again. Carl explained that during the flood of 1927, water rose 8'- 9' and after measuring its current elevation, he is concerned that a building placed on the playground site might get flooded if we have another flood like the one in '27.

Michelle let Carl know that the grant is specific to the playground site.

Carl said he realizes that, but still thinks the playground isn't the best site for a new town office.

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New Business: None tonight.

Documents for signatures –

John signed the Engagement Agreement for the attorney services of Patrick Bernal.

Warrant # 55 & 54 were approved as submitted.

Michelle moved; John seconded to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. All were in favor.