

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

Draft – unapproved minutes of 11/25/13 selectboard special meeting

Board members present: Rae Washburn, Reed Korrow, John Hoogenboom, Tom Martin

Guests included: Martha & Tom Douglass, Clark Amadon, Martin Cameron, Donald LaRocca, and Cheryl Brown as board assistant

Tom called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and explained that the purpose of tonight's special meeting is to talk with Martin about repairs to the village hill; about his request to ask the voters to purchase a new dump truck; and to talk about the highway budget. Also on tonight's agenda is to meet with Don LaRocca about updating the capital budget, and to talk about investment options. Other business will be discussed as needed.

Tom offered a public comment period –

Clark Amadon explained that it is necessary for the town to adopt a Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan for the town office project. By adopting the plan, the town agrees that it will take steps to minimize the displacement of persons from their homes for this project, and any project going forward.

The board reviewed the draft.

Tom moved, and John seconded that Moretown adopt a Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan by signing the plan tonight. All were in favor and the document was signed by the board.

Clark added that the Environmental Review is due by December 8th. It is possible we may need an extension to allow more time to gather all of the necessary documents related to the grant requirements for the review.

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Martin Cameron re:

Village Hill repair – there was discussion about: The cost of having soil borings done versus digging test holes. Martin said numerous samples could be gotten if boring was done, versus two or so by digging test holes, because of the time it would take for the digging then patching etc. Borings should give a better idea of what the problem is. Mike’s Boring quoted \$800 for ½ day, and \$1200 for a full day.

After discussion, the decision was to do nothing until spring except patch a couple of areas.

Martin suggested holding off on accepting the bids until the town has more information about whether the road base is the problem or it’s an erosion problem why the road failed.

New dump truck article – Martin is proposing asking voters for a new dump truck, and gave the board an overview of the condition of and upcoming repairs for each truck, adding that it would be up to the selectboard which truck to trade in toward the new truck, if they were to approve having an article.

Discussion followed about continuing to hire out having road materials drawn if the bids remained as low as they are now; and that the capital budget indicates not buying a truck until 2015.

Martin said some other town’s space between truck purchases longer than we do, but our trucks may not last as long as some other towns do because they may have their own source of road materials, we do not and therefore must travel.

Highway budget – Martin said he could cut his budget by way of the materials, but the board needs to decide whether or not to keep moving forward with improving our roads. He is very happy with the progress we made this year with improvements to the Mountain Road and South Hill Road, but there are many more roads that need work.

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Martin said that it is going to hurt if we don't get a host agreement in place so we can get rock from the Moretown Landfill. Because of the landfill rock last year's entire gravel budget wasn't used. Because of the uncertainty of having the rock again next year, Martin would like to level fund it again this year to keep moving forward.

The board thanked Martin for doing a great job.

Maintenance of the school parking lot – Martin reported that the school called and asked the town to sand the parking lot. Apparently Griffin & Griffin got the bid to plow, but the bid didn't include sanding.

The board will ask Michelle Baker for a copy of the bid.

Don LaRocca re: Capital Budget revisions and reopen the discussion on investing town reserves – Discussion included:

- Decide what, from what reserves we have, the board wants to invest?
- The tipping fees are no longer coming in, so we need to think what the goal is to gain from the investments.
- The capital budget plan needs to be restructured to reflect what debt we have, and where the money is coming from to pay them.
- How if you intend to keep supplementing the tax rate to keep taxes low, do you intend to do it? By using reserve funds?
- Do we have plans to use the reserve funds so the monies invested need to be accessible?
- It is important to stick to the capital budget plan unless there is a compelling need for a purchase, and necessary to review it yearly in case revisions need to be made to fit the current financial situation.
- In order to maximize the benefits keep the risk low and perhaps the investment committee could manage the investments so we don't pay management fees.

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Don will gather information and draft revisions to the capital budget and come back on December 9th.

Other business:

Mad River Valley Planning District – During budgeting, the board will need to decide if the cost to join the district would worth the benefits to Moretown.

DRB secretary hourly rate – JB Weir is considering helping out as secretary to the Development Review Board, and sent an email to the board requesting a minimum of \$16/hr. to do the work.

The board will discuss this at a later meeting.

Tipping fee negotiations – Tom moved to enter into executive session at 8:00 p.m. for contract negotiations, whereby premature general public knowledge would clearly place the town at a disadvantage. John seconded. All were in favor.

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

Invoices were approved and warrant #63 was approved as submitted.

Reed moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m., Tom seconded. All were in favor.