

Town of Moretown
Office of the SELECT BOARD

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 12/2/13 selectboard meeting minutes

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

Guests included: Jordan von Trapp, Martha & Tom Douglass, Lisa Ransom & Scott Baughman, Jennifer Tripp Meade, Lisa Samsom, Steve Smith, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

Public Comment period:

Jordan von Trapp – Jordan would like to know if the selectboard would consider returning the amount charged by the state for filing their homestead exemption late.

John moved to refund Jordan von Trapp \$313.71, the amount the town received from the State imposed late filing fee. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

11/18/13 – Rae moved; John seconded to approve the minutes of 11/18/13 as written. All were in favor.

11/25/13 – John moved; Rae seconded to approve the minutes of 11/25/13 as written. John, Rae, Tom & Reed were in favor. Michelle abstained from voting.

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Reports & Communication, Announcements:

Crothers Environmental Group – provided a quote of \$1,575 to conduct a demolition inspection for the presence of asbestos containing materials in the old town office building.

As asbestos assessment is required before the town office building could be torn down. Rae recommended using Crothers and contacted them for a quote.

Tom moved to hire Crothers Environmental Group to do the asbestos inspection on the old town office for the price of \$1,575.00. John seconded. All were in favor.

Tom reported hearing from Johnny Summers that Johnny had safety concerns about having a 4-way STOP sign at the intersection of the Moretown Mountain Road and Route 100B, on the village end.

Cheryl reported hearing from Amy Gamble of VTrans about her decision on the town's petition to install the 4-way STOP sign. Amy did not recommend all-way stop control at the intersection, but said that the town should re-look at what the recommendations were in the Safety Study done a few years ago that included the intersection.

The email from Amy of her decision will be part of reports & communication at the 12/16 selectboard meeting.

Reports of stolen tires in Moretown – There have been reports that several residents in the village area have had tires stolen.

Budget work –

Highway budget - Michelle said she polled the operating budget for 20 or so other towns (via online town reports) and Moretown's highway budget is in line with other town's our size. Discussion included:

- There is nothing in for building maintenance for the highway garage.
- Martin mentioned that work needs to be done on the excavator and that the 2001 and 2004 work.

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- Rae wondered what the hours were on the highway trucks. Reed will ask Martin to get that information.
- What will the repairs to the excavator and the trucks cost?
- Reed will ask Martin to get prices for the excavator repair and for the dump body work.

Reed will ask Martin to review his highway budget proposal again, and to come into the 12/9/13 meeting.

Salaries – There was discussion about whether or not raises will be given this year to town employees. A year or so ago, the board brought the highway department salaries up to what the surrounding towns road crew were making.

Board members will be polling what surrounding towns employees are being paid. This discussion will continue on 12/9/13 as well.

Library budget – Lisa Samsom and Jennifer Tripp Meade came in and gave a review of what services the Moretown Library offers and of the budget proposal that was submitted.

- All of the resources are on the website so everyone can use the services.
- Lisa does on-site training, showing people how to use the services to their best advantage.
- The library provides several services that people don't have to pay for, so that saves them money.
- The library is a community hub.

The board thanked Lisa and Jennifer for coming in and told them they will look over the budget proposal and get back to them if they have questions.

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Fire department budget – Steve Smith came in tonight to review the fire department’s budget request with the selectboard. Steve said Sean O’Brien has moved to New York, and that he expects to be elected the new fire chief at tomorrow night’s fire meeting. Steve will also be the new Co-Emergency Management Coordinator that will team with Michelle Beard.

One area in the fire departments budget request is \$10,000 for equipment. The board asked Steve to explain.

Steve said part of the \$10,000 is to purchase self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). What this equipment does is allow for a “buddy” system during firefighting, which means that if one fireman’s tank was low, he could hook onto another firefighter’s apparatus and the air would equalize so both could share the air. The \$10,000 also includes maintenance on the SCBA units they have now, and for the cascade system. The cost for each SCBA is \$6,000. Steve said the plan is to buy one SCBA per year until they have the older model units replaced.

There was discussion that the breathing apparatus equipment meets the criteria for grant funding, and there was a grant available that Sean knew about. The deadline for the application is Friday, December 06, 2013, leaving no time now to fill out the application. The board encouraged Steve to apply for future fire fighter assistant grants to purchase equipment and vehicles, and offered that Cheryl would work with him to write the grant application.

OLD BUSINESS:

John (JB) Weir’s letters of November 25th – One letter requests an increase in his pay from \$16 per hour to \$18 per hour and the reasoning for the request.

JB’s second letter expressed his interest in taking over the duties of the secretary to the Development Review Board (DRB), with the requirement that his rate of pay be the same as that of his zoning administrator rate.

There was discussion that the budget submitted by John Riley, Chairman of the DRB, was \$750. That amount wouldn’t allow for many hours to be worked by JB at the rate of pay he is requesting, so there needs to be more discussion.

The board will ask Duane what the Moretown schoolboard pays their secretary per hour for taking minutes; and they will post the position on the town website to let people know the DRB is looking for a secretary.

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Blodgett’s appeal of trail #49 location – There has been no word from Paul Gillies as to a plan that was supposed to be submitted by Blodgett, so Cheryl will contact Paul for a status.

Host Town Agreement – Martha asked if the host town committee is going to work on the agreement. She feels that the committee hasn’t finished its purpose. That they just postponed their work to see if MLI was going to apply for a fourth cell, and now they have submitted the application.

Tom indicated that the selectboard will talk about that soon, but Michelle has the comments and recommendations from the committee meetings and so perhaps with that information and comments from the selectboard, the town’s attorney can write the agreement with the help from an accountant familiar with landfill operations, so we have a good binding document this time. Tom acknowledged that MLI has submitted a permit to ANR for cell 4, but realizes that the permitting process will take a while, so we have some time to prepare a solid host agreement.

Tipping fee litigation – Scott asked if the tipping fee litigation had been solved. The answer was no, not at this time.

New Business:

Documents to adopt in order to satisfy the Award Conditions on the town office grant - The Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development block grant that the town was awarded to build a new town office, require that a Drug Free Workplace Policy and a Municipal Policies and Codes be adopted.

Michelle moved to adopt the Drug Free Workplace Policy and the Municipal Policies and Codes as presented tonight, as they relate to the Community Development Block Grant for the new town office. Reed seconded. All were in favor.

Warrant # 64 & 65 were approved as submitted.

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