

Town of Moretown
Office of the SELECT BOARD

Board members present were: Michelle Beard, Rae Washburn, Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom and Reed Korrow arrived at 6:20

Guests: Tom & Martha Douglass, Lisa Ransom & Scott Baughman, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

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

Reports & Communication, Announcements –

Request for private road name – Chenette Associates, P.C. letter on behalf of Jacques Bouramia, requesting that his private road to Vermont Testing be named BOURAMIA DRIVE.

Rae moved to approve that the private drive to Vermont Testing be named Bouramia Drive. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

Resignation as Library Trustee – Letter from Sarah Nussbaum resigning from the Moretown Memorial Library Board of Trustees effective 2/5/14.

Rae moved to accept the resignation of Sarah Nussbaum as Library Trustee. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

2014 Selectboard Institute – is Saturday, March 22 and/or Saturday April 12.

Stipulation of Settlement – Buttolph versus Moretown for Buttolph's appeal of the Selectboard's decision to deny his petition that the town lay out a road across lands of Linda Vantine for the purpose of logging. The Settlement puts an end to the conflict between Moretown and Buttolph.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 2/18/14 selectboard meeting

Logging operation on Ward Brook Road – After last week’s complaint about vehicles being parked in, and logs being skid across the town road, Tom contacted the property owners of the logging operation, William and Stephanie Jenkerson. Tom reported speaking with Stephanie, who assured him that vehicles would not be left in the road going forward, and she would talk to the logger about not skidding across the town road.

While on the phone, Stephanie told Tom about speeding problems on Ward Brook Road. Tom took note of her complaint and invited her to come to a meeting and talk with the board.

Approval of Minutes - Michelle moved to approve the minutes of 2/3/14 as written. John seconded. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town hall rental contract – Michelle said she spoke with Becky Ciampi about updating the rental contract and incorporated some of her comments. The draft was reviewed and further revised. Michelle will resend the draft to Becky and Cherilyn for comments, and hopefully it will be adopted at the next meeting.

Host Town Agreement (HTA) for Cell IV – The board discussed what the town wants from the host agreement. Some ideas were:

- ✓ More town oversight over the operation and ways to pay for that oversight
- ✓ Better communication with and reports from MLI
- ✓ Fair and appropriate tipping fees
- ✓ Calendar year basis for all aspects within the HTA
- ✓ Types of waste taken. The board will need education on this.
- ✓ Some type of good neighbor clause
- ✓ The town wants to be copied on all correspondence to MLI from the State of Vermont and vice versa
- ✓ To have an enforceable contract
- ✓ Talk about tax credits to residents near the landfill
- ✓ Perhaps create an industrial type district in the zoning regulations as a better enforcement tool than the Host Agreement

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The board will dedicate twenty minutes to each selectboard meeting to work on an outline for a draft HTA.

Blodgett appeal of trail #49 location – A proposal for a new access to the Blodgett trail was received from Steve Cusick (Blodgett’s attorney) and reviewed tonight by the board. After reviewing the proposal the general consensus of the board was to reject the plan as submitted.

Tom moved to reject Blodgett’s proposal as submitted for a new access to the legal trail #49. Rae seconded.

Discussion: the Stipulation of Settlement done at the mediation was reviewed again. The board thought it appears as though no one at the mediation was aware that discontinuance of part of the trail could impact access to anyone’s property.

Vote: All were in favor.

Investment Committee news – John reported that committee members met with TD Bank, and plan to meet with the Merchants Bank and Northfield Savings Bank within the next couple of weeks about investment options.

Town Office project – Tom reported information from Clark Amadon that there is an archeological study of the “playground site” area in progress. How extensive that turns out to be remains to be determined. Currently Clark is investigating the work that was done when the ball field was built.

Town Hall flood repairs – Rae will talk with Craig Ciampi about the status of the repairs, and to be sure they are done by Town Meeting Day.

VTrans grants – Reed said Martin is aware the grant applications are due.

New Business:

Reckless driving on Jones Brook Road – A couple of weeks ago there was a complaint about reckless driving and speeding on Jones Brook Road, some of which may have resulted in serious accidents.

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Rae noted that Jones Brook Road begins in Berlin; then is Moretown; and back to Berlin. He said there is one house in particular that seems to have become a magnet for parties, which may be a contributing factor. Rae has seen the Washington County Sheriff's Department around on weekends lately so that might help, but he suggested contacting the Town of Berlin Police Department.

The board approved that Rae and Reed reach out to Berlin PD on behalf of the Moretown Selectboard about the problem to see what they say.

Road crew hours – Reed said he spoke with Martin about why he was working considerably more hours than Rodney and Wade. Martin told him that he may go out early to check roads and he tends to stay later than they do. So it's basically administrative work.

There was a question whether if someone has to cover if one of the road crew is out. If so and it's Martin, that could cost the town more money because he is paid a higher salary.

Pre-town meeting brush up - Tom gave an overview of what he plans to present. Michelle had a spreadsheet that she shared of expenditures versus revenue in 2013. Tom will also talk about how the tax rate is put together ie: town and school rates, and what percentage of the town budget was spent.

Fiscal Policy – Michelle thinks while things are going well, it might be a good time to create a fiscal policy that would set guidelines for approval of overspending of budgets; line item entries etc.

Michelle also brought it to the board's attention that the Planning Commission (PC) has a Fiscal Health Workshop planned. There were a couple of items on that agenda that seem to be budget focused, and the board would like to talk to Jonathan about them more.

Tom said he spoke with Jonathan and thinks it is merely for gathering information as part of the town plan work.

Michelle thinks it might be confusing for residents to talk with the PC about how landfill monies could be spent, or about eliminating town services.

Martha and Tom said they had attended a similar PC meeting and think the workshops are for public input and creative thinking only.

The board will ask Jon if he would be available to come into a meeting.

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Invoices were reviewed and Warrant #'s 8 and 9 were approved as submitted.

Other documents for signature –

Curb cut access for Isaac Graham

Engagement Letter for Pace & Hawley to audit the 2013 financials

Overload permits: Veilleux, Newport Sand & Gravel, McCullough Crushing

Tom moved to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.