

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

**Draft** – unapproved minutes of the 5/5/14 selectboard meeting

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

Guests included: Martin Cameron, Jonathan Siegel, John Gallagher, Karen Horn, Jay Pilliod, Martha & Tom Douglass, Ricky Blake and Cheryl Brown as board assistant

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

**Public Comment Period:**

**Martha Douglass – town plan** - Martha asked if the Town Plan being revised will have something in it about the Host Town Agreement. Jonathan said yes, he is working with the town's attorney and the language is pending.

**Jonathan Siegel – Friends of the Northfield Ridge wind tower forum** – Jonathan said there has been some confusion about the need for insurance coverage when John Gallagher tried to rent the town hall for the forum. He said the planning commission will host the forum as a continuation of discussion on the wind tower subject. Jay Pilliod of the Energy Committee will be moderating the forum.

**John Gallagher – rental of the town hall for a forum** – John G. said he attended a planning commission meeting because he wants something in the new town plan to prohibit wind towers on Moretown's ridgelines. At that time the planning commission wondered if there should be a forum for public input; to make people aware of what is happening in Northfield; and if there are ramifications for having wind towers on ridgelines.

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**Karen Horn – re: Northfield wind towers** – A few years ago the Moretown energy group actually had a forum regarding the wind towers on the Northfield ridgeline, so this forum continues the discussion.

**Tom Martin** said now that the town realizes that the planning commission will be hosting the meeting, there is no insurance issue and the town hall policy is being followed.

Michelle will let Cheryl know that the planning commission will be hosting the forum so no contract is needed.

### **Jay Pilliod – Energy Committee Business**

There will be a big project happening on May 31<sup>st</sup>, hosted by the Moretown Elementary School and the PTN, combining several town departments pulling together to make this fundraiser happen. Activities will include:

- A bike swap
- Music and dancing
- Barbecue
- Energy fair

Jay will post a full version of the activities on the town website [moretownvt.org](http://moretownvt.org)

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**4/21/14** – Rae moved to approve the minutes of 4/21/14. John seconded. Rae, Reed and John were in favor. Tom and Michelle abstained from voting as they were absent.

**4/28/14** – Reed moved to approve the minutes of 4/28/14. Michelle seconded. Reed, Michelle, Rae and John were in favor. Tom abstained from voting as he was absent.

### **Martin Cameron – highway business**

**Road signs for “no dumping”** – Martin said the no dumping signs would be \$40 - \$60 per sign depending on the wording. The selectboard wants to see the penalty in the sign wording and would like five signs placed in areas around town.

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**Insurance claim town garage door** – Effective 1/1/14 the insurance deductible went from \$500 to \$1,000, so it may not be feasible to submit an insurance claim to fix the town garage door since the bid from K-Bar was \$1,100. The board wants Martin to ask K-Bar if they would consider making the repair for \$1,000.

**Town Hall elevator door/entrance** – Martin said the cement heaves to the point where the elevator could become unusable. He believes to the entrance should be dug down below the frost line and a new entrance put in.

Tom Douglass said Kevin Streeter had a few ideas for that fix. The board asked Cheryl to have Becky contact Kevin.

**Mud season road conditions** – Mud season seems to be milder this year, probably because of the good work done by the road crew.

**Bids for hauling sand/gravel** – Martin has quite a list of hauling contractors who want to place bids for hauling sand, but he needs to clarify the town's requirements for liability insurance coverage etc.

Rae expressed some concern about haulers proving to the town that they (the hauler) have paid for items such as fuel, used to do the work before final payment is released.

Martin will proceed with getting the bids.

**Mowing the town / school land** – Eric Howes and Justin Lamson provided bids for the mowing, using their own equipment. Eric's bid was \$225 per mowing; Justin's bid was \$360 per mowing.

Rodney Huntoon; Steve Smith; and Greg Wagner (MES custodian) expressed interest in doing the mowing, using the town's equipment.

Discussion followed about how many hours each mowing took; about possibly brush hogging four times or so per year the bank and leach field area rather than mowing them very time; and that if Rodney gets approved to do the mowing he would be doing it evenings and weekends.

Martin indicated that Rodney would be his first choice.

Michelle moved to hire Rodney Huntoon to do the mowing at a rate of \$15 per hour, the temporary help rate of pay. John seconded. All were in favor.

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**Highway Department vacancies** – Tom moved to enter into executive session at 6:53 p.m. to talk with Martin about applicants to fill the highway department vacancy, and invite Martin to stay. John seconded. All were in favor.

Tom moved to come out of executive session at 8:07 p.m. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

Included in the executive session were the interviews of Michael Wilder and Thomas Maynard.

No action was taken as the result of the executive session.

**Investment Committee – Don LaRocca** was here tonight to discuss an outline of objectives from the interim investment committee (IC) that was forwarded to the board a couple weeks ago. Don gave an overview of each objective and added that the IC has finished their work and now need the board to decide whether or not how to proceed. If so, the selectboard needs to appoint a permanent IC, who would recommendations to the selectboard. The selectboard has final say.

After the presentation, Don told the board that the IC feels good about the services of TD Ameritrade as explained by Arthur Wright.

The decision was to ask Mr. Wright to come to the 5/19/14 selectboard meeting, and if board members have any questions or concerns please pass them along to Don beforehand.

### **New Business:**

**Highway Department vacancy / hire** – Michelle moved to offer Thomas Maynard a position on the road crew at \$16 per hour. John seconded. All were in favor.

### **Reports & Communication, Announcements:**

**Steve Sharp resignation from TAC** – A letter dated April 22<sup>nd</sup> from Steve Sharp resigning as Moretown’s representative to the Central Vermont Transportation Advisory Committee (CVTAC).

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Discussion: It is important to have a town representative on the TAC with all of the State road work that is going to happen this summer in the Waterbury/Moretown area. Notice will be put on Front Porch Forum and on the town website (moretownvt.org) for a new town representative.

John moved to accept the resignation from Steve Sharp. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

**Blodgett appeal update** – Correspondence from Paul Gilles regarding responses to Motions file by Blodgett regarding the appeal. There will be a court hearing scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup>, for what Paul Gillies feels will involve a review of the motions and responses to Blodgetts motions filed by the Town.

**Audit of 2013 town financials** – Tom reported hearing from Nathan Hawley of Pace & Hawley, the firm doing the audit. Tom said Nathan told him the audit was going well and that there were no “red flags”. Once the audit is finished, Tom will invite Nathan to attend a selectboard meeting to review the findings.

**Lynch Hill conditions after logging operation shut-down** – Copy of an email from Rae Washburn to Andy Carlo of Fountains Forestry, regarding tree limbs and skidder ruts left in Lynch Hill from this winter’s logging operation, making the road impassable. Photo’s accompanied the email. Andy replied that they are aware of the situation and will get the road cleaned up once it is thawed out.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Host Town Agreement** - discussion was tabled until 5/19 at which time the topics of communication and oversight will discussed.

**Maloney culvert work** – discussion was tabled until 5/19/14.

**Sidewalks** – There will be a site visit related to the local project manager request for proposal on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m., so bidders can view the project area.

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Review invoices & other documents:

**Bridge inspection report** – was signed

**Overload permits** – were approved.

There were no warrants.

Michelle moved; and Reed seconded to adjourn at 9:25. All were in favor.