

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

**DRAFT – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 8/18/14 Selectboard meeting**

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

Guests included: Tom & Martha Douglass, Lisa Ransom & Scott Baughman, Martin Cameron, Steve Smith and Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

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

**Public Comment:**

**Martha** asked if the plan is for the board to craft a host town agreement to give to the attorney from the list of objectives, or will there be more public input.

Michelle thinks once the list has been fine-tuned by the board, the objective points will then be discussed publically.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**8/4/14** – Rae moved to approve the minutes of 8/4/14 as printed; Reed seconded. All were in favor.

**Reports & Communication, Announcements**

**Planning Commission (PC) appointments** – The vacancy created when Bridgette Remington resigned was posted on Front Porch Forum and various places in town, but no one showed an interest in helping out.

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**Dara Torre** - at the last meeting, prior to the advertisement of the opening, expressed interest via an email of being appointed to the PC.

Reed moved to appoint Dara Torre to the Moretown Planning Commission; Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

**Horace (Rube) Scharges** – requested re-appointment to the PC via an email.

John moved to re-appoint Rube Scharges to the Moretown Planning Commission; Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

**Don LaRocca email re: Schwab investments** – Don sent an email on 8/7/14, notifying of a meeting scheduled with Schwab on August 25<sup>th</sup>. The Investment Council will report their findings of services available to the selectboard on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, with the hopes of making a recommendation to open an account.

**Rae Washburn re: unregistered vehicles travel on Jones Brook Road** – Rae reported a complaint from Mario Ciampi that unregistered motorcycles and trucks are traveling Jones Brook Road. Mario is concerned about what the liability might be if someone or something was injured. Mario also expressed that he is unhappy with the lack of police services in that area.

The board will invite constables Dave Van Deusen and Raymond Munn to a selectboard meeting to talk more about ongoing problems in that area of Moretown.

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**Martin Cameron Highway business:**

**Moretown Mountain Road project** – There will be a mandatory pre-bid site visit on Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>; and bids are due Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Bids will be opened shortly afterward so they can be reviewed and recommendations can be made at the Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> selectboard meeting. VTrans personnel will be present at the opening. The hope is that utility lines will be moved in time to finish the phase of the project that the grant was written for, otherwise amendments to the grant scope of work will be needed.

**Highway budget line items** – Martin spoke about an expense charged to the highway budget for a survey that he didn't expect. The cost was for the survey of Blodgett trail. Martin had no plans for using the \$1,000 line item, but the survey cost (\$2,297) was a surprise and was in excess of the budgeted amount.

There was discussion that the survey cost could be moved by the selectboard if they decide that is necessary closer to year end.

**Thomas Maynard's accident** – Martin reported that Thomas had an accident on Freeman Hill Road on August 5<sup>th</sup>. The accident resulted in him getting a citation, and Thomas wonders if the town would pay the \$220 fine.

The board agreed tonight that they would not pay Thomas's fine.

Martin went on to say that Thomas should have undergone alcohol testing within 2 hours of the accident (as mandated by the Town's Drug & Alcohol Policy by conditions), but Martin did not direct Thomas to do so. Thomas was however taken for drug testing within the 32 hour window, also per policy guidelines. Martin has concerns about the clarity of the policy on items such as: should the policy be followed for all vehicles (pickup, grader, loader etc.) or just the dump trucks (commercial vehicles; guidelines to follow for when the test will happen ie: every incident no matter whether a citation is issued or there are injuries etc; and having enough time to do the 2 hour window to get an alcohol testing. Martin doesn't feel 2 hours is enough time to get the alcohol test done, it wasn't on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Michelle will work on clarity revisions.

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**Personal use of the town's excavator** – The board advised Martin about the receipt of a complaint that Martin was using the town's excavator for personal use on his property this past weekend.

Martin indicated that he had used the excavator for 2 hours on Saturday and for 2 hours on Sunday to pull two stumps; for ditching in his pasture on the way up the hill (Freeman Hill) from where the excavator was sitting; and to grade off ditching materials dumped, which the town would do anyway.

Michelle asked Martin if he had checked with anyone for permission to use the town equipment.

Martin said no, and added that he put in 20 gallons or so of his own diesel fuel to replenish what he figured he used.

Michelle reported having spoken with Tom Martin earlier today about this. Tom feels this is a serious issue that needs to be discussed when there is a full board. Further discussion was tabled.

#### **Steve Smith Fire Department business:**

**Old Town Office building** – Steve said the fire department would like the town to consider keeping the old town office for fire department trainings. It is a vacant structure and makes training more realistic; its location is convenient; and provides the right atmosphere for structure fire training.

Cheryl will contact FEMA and find out if the building could be moved and used for FD training and still get the FEMA buyout money; or could we leave the building vacant where it is, use it for FD training, and still get the FEMA buyout money.

**Budgeting** – The board realizes that the fire department is made up of volunteers, who spend much of their time training for fires, and asked Steve how the town can help them/him with budgeting, reporting etc.

Steve said he prefers to leave things as they are now, as he is delegating better and keeping up with the reporting. Steve said if the work load becomes too much, he isn't afraid to ask for help

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Steve will provide monthly reports to the selectboard going forward about equipment/firefighting gear needs so Cheryl can be on the look-out for money to help pay for the equipment, and to assist Steve to monitor his budget.

Reminder of the annual pig roast this weekend at the fire station.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Maloney culvert** – Rae said he spoke with Jason Maloney, and Jason is ok with paying the town for a new culvert that needs to be installed.

**Old town office asbestos** – Now that all grant agreements have been executed, it is ok to begin work related to the “buy-out” process of the old town office. No matter what happens to the building, whether it is torn down or moved, because testing found asbestos in the building that needs to be removed. Cheryl will get out requests for proposals to get the asbestos removed.

**Sidewalk renovation update** – Requests for Proposals for design/build will go out next week when Pat Travers gets back from vacation.

**Blodgett litigation** – John and Michelle attended a court hearing earlier today, at which John testified on the town’s behalf. As per the normal process of the law when a public right of way is moved, discontinued etc., part of the process is to have a site visit and a public hearing. The site visit is to show interested parties actually what / where the right of way change(s) would be; the public hearing is also for informational purposes and for public input before the process is finalized. There is an appeal period.

**MECA** – The MECA directors will be invited to a selectboard meeting in October to have the opportunity to explain the MECA program and services the program offers.

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**Review invoices and sign warrants** – Warrant’s # 43 and # 42 were approved as submitted.

**Liquor license** for Three Penny Taproom was signed, for an event at Bliss Ridge Farm in September.

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

Respectfully submitted 8/20/14:  
Cheryl Brown, Town Administrator