

Town of Moretown
Office of the SELECT BOARD

Draft – Unapproved minutes of the 12/15/14 Selectboard meeting

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

Guests present included: Cherilyn Brown, Rachel Goff, Cheryl Brown as board assistant

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

Public Comment:

Cherilyn Brown, Treasurer

Tax Anticipation Note (tan) - Cherilyn came in to talk with the board about the need for a 2015 tax anticipation loan. We need to pay back the 2014 tan and have money for other town expenses. Contributing factors are \$99,000 in delinquent taxes, and \$200,000 that was spent on the Moretown Mountain Road reconstruction that has not been reimbursed yet. Merchants Bank has agreed to give the town a new tan loan on 1/1/15, but the 2014 tan of \$154K must be paid off first. The board approved that Cherilyn proceed to get the tan paperwork.

Cherilyn suggested borrowing from the Capital Reserve Fund until we get the 2015 loan. \$110,000 has been submitted to VTrans for the Mountain Road grant (partial payment) and should be received by 12/31/14, but that is not a certainty, so tonight she is looking for permission to use reserve funds to help get us through until after the first of the year when the new tan is available.

John moved to approve that Cherilyn use money from the Capital Reserve Fund to pay town expenses until the new 2015 tax anticipation loan is ready, at which time the CRF will be refunded. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

Audit of 2014 financials – Town auditors will be in soon to begin their auditing work. Nathan Hawley will also be in soon to begin the review of the 2014 financials.

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Approval of the 12/1/14 minutes: Rae moved to approve the minutes of 12/1/14 as printed. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

Reports & Communications, Announcements

Friends of the Mad River – Notice of a March 2015 meeting

Town Office design plan – Email from Clark Amadon requesting a special meeting on December 22nd to present the design plans to the board. Clark spoke with Tom earlier and cancelled his request. There will be time set aside on the 1/5/15 agenda for presentation of the plans.

Moretown Elementary School meeting schedule – Email from Kate O’Neill that the Moretown school board meetings are back to starting at 6:00 p.m., and are held on the second Monday of each month. Also, there will be a special budget meeting on Monday, December 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Gwen Hoadley a Moretown resident – Requested a waiver of fees for rental of the town hall for a benefit for a local resident who has terminal cancer.

Tom moved to waive the rental fee for the Fowler benefit. Proof of insurance will still be necessary. John seconded. All were in favor.

Paul Tartaglia – An email from Paul Tartaglia praising Martin – always friendly, easy to talk to, and eager to do whatever needs to be done to keep our roads in great shape. Thank you Martin!

Kevin Dorn email re: Property Tax Resolution – Alerting colleagues that selectboards of Dorset, Killington, Huntington and Fairlee, and the City Council of South Burlington have all passed a resolution calling for a two-year cap on the Statewide Education Property Tax Rate beginning at the 2015 level.

Tom will pass the email along to the board members for discussion at a future meeting.

Rae Washburn and Tom Martin reported about attending a school board meeting – when the school board was working on the Elementary School budget. Preliminary projections show about an 8% increase, which was concerning. There are plans to increase one teacher. Enrollment was about 100 students in 2014, which was an increase from 2013.

Rae said Tom Badowski contacted him saying the MES preliminary budget is down to about a 5% increase at this point.

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Discussion included: MES has a lot of unfunded mandates to cover; the State wants 2 – 3% increases in school budgets; legislators should also cap the budget at 2 – 3%.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fire Department grant – The deadline for placing a grant application for a new fire truck was missed.

The board is concerned about the tanker we have being “road worthy” and so they would like Clark’s International or J & B International to come and assess the vehicle. The board will talk to Steve about that.

Preliminary designs for the new town office – were sent by Maclay Architects last week. Minor changes have been made. The board will look them over before the next meeting.

Sidewalk project – Doug Henson and Pat Travers will make a presentation of conceptual design for the new sidewalks in Moretown village at the 1/5/14 selectboard meeting.

Blodgett litigation – There is nothing new to report.

Recovery of FEMA money – Tom and Cheryl have been in contact with Tom Berry from Senator Leahy’s office, about speeding up the process to find out whether or not FEMA will pay for actual expenses for replacing the bridge lost during Tropical Storm Irene. Mr. Berry intends to talk with FEMA about when the town can get an answer one way or another.

Dog fines – Out of the five owners who received fines for unregistered dogs, three have registered their dogs and have asked that their fines be waived. The board received two requests for waiver tonight from: Ackel; Longchamp. Matthew Garner showed proof that he had moved out of town. No word from David Van Deusen to date. He has until 12/24/14 to register his dogs and to address the \$300 fine.

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Michelle moved to reduce the fine for Ackel and for Longchamp to \$25 providing the fine is paid in 2014.

Investment Committee – John moved to formally disband the Investment Committee. Tom seconded. All were in favor.

New Business:

Warren Noyes violation of Zoning Regulations – Warren Noyes was issued a notice for violation of the zoning regulations by JB. The case has been turned over to the town’s attorney to handle.

Budget work –

- Work on the fire department budget brought up discussion that according to VLCT the fire department is (as is the library) its own non-profit entity and perhaps the town should not be writing the checks for their bills.

The selectboard is trying to figure out how the paying of bills should be handled to meet both state statutes and VLCT recommendations that the board recently became aware of during budget preparations with the library. The board will talk with Steve Smith to see how he feels about the fire department paying their own bills, with money as budgeted by the town.

- Planning Commission budget – What is the \$1200 budgeted for?
- Cemetery budget – Will the burial fee charge be done away with?

Cheryl will provide an up to date budget report for the next meeting

Review of invoices and approval of warrant - #63 ck# 16544-16577
#64 ck # 16578
e-ck # 1809-1818
#65 ck# 16579-16588

Warrants and check #'s were verified as being consecutive with the previous warrants.

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Other documents signed: \$110,000 TA65 request for reimbursement –Vtrans
2015 Contract with the Central Vt. Humane Society

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Brown
Town Administrator