

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

DRAFT – Unapproved minutes of the 1/20/15 Selectboard meeting

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

Guests included: Clark Amadon, Martha & Tom Douglass, Rachel Goff, John Schmeltzer, Bill Maclay, Bill Gallup, Duane Pierson, Joyce Manchester, Steve Smith, Carl Wimble, Doug Henson, Susan Werntgen, Patty Haynes, Roger Strauss, Ellie & John Hilferty, Charlie & Jane Briggs, Dara Torre, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

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

Approval of Minutes:

1/5/15 Michelle moved; Rae seconded to approve the minutes of 1/5/15 as written. All were in favor.

Reports & Communication, Announcements

Locks on thermostats at the town hall – Rae said Becky would like locks put on the thermostat to control the heat. The board agreed, and would like the temperature set at 68 degrees. Cheryl will remind the Harwood class to be mindful not to touching the thermostats.

TOWN OFFICE PROJECT - Clark Amadon – re: update on town office project; approval of design plans – Clark, Bill Maclay and Bill Gallup came in tonight to review the plans for the town office as approved by the town office committee; for approval of the design plans; and for approval to perform a geotechnical evaluation on the building site.

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The following project information was offered:

- The building elevation will be 612', well above the flood stage
- Very little fill will be needed
- Construction in the floodplain area will be avoided
- Concrete walls will be up to the window sill as a flood mitigation measure
- The porch will face the school parking lot
- Large meeting room
- Sky light in the middle of the building to add more light to the clerk/treasurer/reception area
- Cheryl expressed the need to the committee for having locked protection for the town clerk and treasurer computer and confidential files. The possibility of having a drop down screen type locking system to secure records in the clerk's office was discussed. Maclay will investigate cost of such a type of locking device before the board makes a decision.
- 2/5/15 is the next Development Review Board hearing. Performance standards will be reviewed (ie: lighting, parking, landscaping signage etc.)

Tom moved; seconded by John to approve the design plans as approved by the town office committee and presented tonight. All were in favor.

Geotechnical Evaluation - Bill Gallup gave an explanation of why the Geotechnical Evaluation (GE) was needed (State Code) and the reason the price for the GE was not included in Maclay's estimate, was because it was unclear at the bid time which site for the new building was going to be chosen. Meaning a GE may not have been needed. Cost for the GE will be between \$1400-\$2000.

Tom moved; seconded by Michelle to approve having the Geotechnical Evaluation done. All were in favor. Bill will let Duane know the date for the testing.

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New Cost Estimate – Henry Erickson did a project cost estimate last year. There are thoughts amongst town office committee members that a revised estimate should be done. The price for doing a revised estimate is \$3000-\$4000.

There was discussion about the financial standings of the project to date. Bill G. thinks we are in pretty good shape, and we have alternates where deducts could be done (ie: asphalt roof versus standing seam roof). Hold off on the second estimate for now.

Bid for local project manager – Cheryl is looking over the draft for the project manager bid packet.

Joyce Manchester – re: appointment to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) - Joyce expressed interest to help out on the TAC in early December, and was appointed to replace Laura Gans who resigned. Joyce came in tonight to introduce herself to the Selectboard. She will come in on a quarterly basis with updates.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS: Steve Smith re: – Tom reported attending a fire department meeting a couple of weeks ago and was received very well.

Steve thanked Tom for coming and said it was nice to have someone from the Selectboard attend a fire meeting. He appreciated it.

Repairs to the tanker – J & B International quoted about \$6,500 to make the necessary repairs to the tanker. Johnson Repair quoted the work at about \$5,300. Steve would like to have Johnson Repair do the work. They could start the repairs next week, and it will take a week.

The board approved to get the work done as soon as possible. Any changes in the price as quoted need the approval of the Selectboard.

Tom Douglass mentioned if there should be a cycle where trucks are sent out for evaluation for the need of repairs. Tom M. said yes, the fire department had already agreed to do that going forward.

The fire department plans to apply for the next round of grant funding for a new tanker. There will be no article.

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Stipend for the fire department - \$4,500 was budgeted as a stipend for the fire department. The board said \$500 of that money is for the chief to help compensate for time he loses from work to do administrative work.

Sidewalk design public hearing – Designing engineer Doug Henson presented conceptual plans for new sidewalks on the east side in the village. Discussion included:

- The entire project remains in the state right of way, except for a small area on one end of a new 8 foot wide wooden bridge that will be built on the outside of the cement bridge by Meriden Nelson's house. ADA Standards require the bridge be 8' wide.
- Route 100B has been determined as a three rod wide road. This means that 24.75 feet from the center of 100B on each side is the right of way. 49.50 feet total width.
- The traveled portion of Route 100B will be 11' from the centerline; then 4' space; then a granite curb; then 5' sidewalks. Those present tonight were made aware that it is possible that some of the new sidewalk will involve areas that are currently being used for lawn etc., as the new sidewalks will be wider than the current ones.
- The current catch basins will be replaced.
- The construction will be very closely watched for grade to be sure no ponding will occur.
- 100B residents expressed concerns about the poor condition of the sidewalks on the other side of the road as well, and about their maintenance preferences (snow blow not snow plow). As a result \$2,500 was put in the budget to tear up the old pavement sidewalks and make them dirt.
- It is undetermined at this point when the construction will be complete.
- Plans presented tonight are on file at the town offices.

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OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution for reform of education funding – A resolution provided to the board by Kevin Dorn, was reviewed over the last couple of weeks for consideration of adoption.

Discussion followed about including a 2 year cap; and about whether or not legislators need direction from Vt. towns.

Tom moved to pass the Resolution for Sustainable Education Funding Reform in Vermont, which includes a 2% cap on Education Property Tax rates at FY2015. Rae seconded. Rae, Reed and Tom were in favor. John and Michelle opposed. Motion passed.

Budget work –

Tom moved to enter into executive session at 8:13 p.m. to discuss the evaluation of employees whereby premature public knowledge would clearly place the town and employee at a disadvantage. Michelle seconded. All in favor.

Tom moved out of executive session at 8:30. John seconded. All were in favor.

Result of executive session -

Tom moved to give the town employees bonuses as follows:

Thomas Maynard	\$500
Rodney Huntoon	\$700
Martin Cameron	\$900
Cheryl Brown	\$1000

John seconded. All were in favor.

Website administration budget– There was discussion about dissolving the website administrator position and cutting the budget for its upkeep from \$4,000 to \$1,000, since in most instances the maintenance consists of posting notices, minutes etc.

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Steve has done a great job, but to save money JB will be taking over the maintenance of the website as of tomorrow. Fifty cents per hour will be added to JB's pay for doing the work, making his hourly pay \$19.31 per hour for Zoning Administrator, E911 Coordinator, and for website maintenance work. Anything outside of normal maintenance work will be contracted out.

2015 Town budget total – Tom moved to approve that the town budget be \$1,062,837. John seconded. All were in favor.

Last year's town budget was \$1,068,802.

2015 articles – There will be no Australian ballot "money" articles (over \$5,000) other than the town and school budgets: Town \$1,062,837 / School \$2,221,773.

Public comment -

Carl Wimble – noted that between 2005 - 2011 when we had the landfill, the average increase in the town budget was about 9% per yr., setting a new baseline for level funding. That baseline was probably based on having windfall from the landfill revenue, which we don't have now.

Old business pending

Blodgett litigation – Tom moved to enter into executive session at 9:20 to discuss the civil action between the Town and Blodgett whereby public knowledge would clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage. Michelle seconded. All were in favor. The board clerk was invited to stay for the discussion.

Tom moved out of executive session at 9:25 p.m.; Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

No action was taken as a result of the session.

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Documents signed: Overload permit for Richard Riendeau & Catamount Forest Products (CFP)

Requisition for reimbursement for the sidewalk project
Resolution for education funding reform

A/P warrant #1 - check # 16612-16633

Pay warrant #2 - check # 16634

e-check # 1830-1839

A/P warrant #3 - check # 16635-16663

Check number and warrant numbers were verified.

Tom moved to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. Reed seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Brown
Town Administrator