

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

Draft – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 8/3/15 Selectboard meeting

Board members present were: Jason Aronowitz, Rae Washburn, Michelle Beard, John Hoogenboom, Tom Martin arrived at 6:30

Guests included: Carl Wimble, Sandra Wetzel, Martha Douglass, Lisa Ransom, Scott Baughman, Henry Erickson, Joyce Manchester, Cheryl Brown as board assistant

Public Comment:

Martha Douglass asked about the appeal of Grow Compost revocation of certification. She was told the topic is on the agenda for later tonight.

Carl Wimble inquired who Ron Shems works for; was money budgeted for this appeal; and Ron's hourly rate.

Ron works out of the Diamond & Robinson law office; monies were budgeted for legal; and Ron's fee is \$150 per hour.

Reports & Communication, Announcements –

Thomas Maynard from the road department provided a letter of what happened when a vehicle was damaged while he was mowing roadsides.

Clark Amadon re: Housing Needs Committee appointment – Fair Housing Training is a requirement to meet the grant requirements for the Moretown Town Office project. In order for Clark to attend the training, he must be appointed by the town as Chair of the Moretown Housing Needs Committee.

Rae moved to appoint Clark Amadon as Chair of the Moretown Housing Needs Committee until the April 2016 appointments. Michelle seconded.

Appointments will be advertised next year in case others are interested in also helping out. All were in favor.

Appeal of Revocation of Grow Compost Solid Waste Certification – Notice from Ron Shems that notification of the town's appeal will be in this week's Valley Reporter.

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Jeannie Randall – Email from Jeannie asking that road signage be placed on Farnham Road, indicating children playing and seasonal road closure signage.

The decision was not to put up a children playing signage, but there should be signage indicating the road is closed to thru traffic in the winter.

Taplin School Project – Email from Scott Gurley, Project Supervisor from the State Byway Division, indicated in an email dated July 8th, that it might be advisable for the town to cancel the Taplin project as State funding runs out on September 15th.

A site plan was done and after its review by VTrans, the project did not move forward per State recommendation. Cancelling the project tonight would formally end byway grant.

Tom moved; Michelle seconded to cancel the Taplin Schoolhouse project. All were in favor.

Insurance Claim from roadside mower – VLCT acknowledged the claim and will be cutting Stacey a check for \$482.94 to repair their truck, hit by a rock during roadside mowing.

A listing of insurance claims provided by VLCT from 2012 to the present was discussed. There was also discussion about installing bollards at the town shed to help prevent equipment from hitting the building.

Meeting minutes/Website maintenance – It was reported that minutes from the Planning Commission and the Development Review Board aren't being posted on the website in a timely manner. It was also noted that the website isn't being maintained on a regular basis.

Michelle noted that we no longer have a website administrator. JB Weir posts minutes and announcements etc., his job to post what he is given. He is not in charge of website maintenance.

The board will talk with the PC and DRB about posting minutes in a timely manner, and about how the Selectboard can assist them, and will place an ad on the Moretown Front Porch Forum asking for interested parties to take minutes.

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Thomas gave notice – An email from Martin informing the board that Thomas gave his notice effective 8/13/15.

John made a motion to accept Thomas's resignation, but later retracted it until the board had a chance to discuss the resignation in new business.

Jason would like to discuss alternatives to hiring a third person at some point.

Approval of Minutes:

7/20/15 – Rae moved; seconded by John to approve the minutes of 7/20/15. Jason, John and Rae were in favor. Michelle and Tom abstained.

Joyce Manchester – re: Cross Vt. Trail and TAC update – Greg Western of Cross Vermont Trail was not able to attend tonight's meeting, but Joyce gave a great update about the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) news. Points of interest include:

- Shoulder widths on Route 100B are wider than on Route 100.
- The Waterbury bridge project is on schedule, but the construction will last for a while yet.
- Moretown and Waterbury have a pretty good Flood Resiliency Plan.
- High Meadows grant will include addressing road erosion issues.
- Better Back Road grants are available for planning and for some road repairs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sidewalk Conceptual Drawings dated 7/15/15 – John moved to approve the Design Drawings dated 7/15/15 for the village sidewalks. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

RUGGCO contract alternates – Henry reviewed the Alternates (#7 Alternated: 1-11) on Exhibit C of the RUGGCO contract line by line with the board. There were no actual changes at this time, but Henry has heating and flood barrier questions he is going to work with Bill Gallup on. In addition:

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- Henry met with Duane Pierson, site contractor and Ruggco about the new playground site.
- Henry will continue to work on humidity control for the vault; and find out if there is a backup generator in the plans.
- Ground breaking in September, 2015.
- Pre-construction meeting will happen in a couple of weeks.

2015 tax rate: The tax rate formula as revised by Tom and Rae was reviewed by the board. In order to help with an increase in the tax rate, \$125,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund was used as anticipated revenue, with the condition that if we receive the additional money from FEMA that we have appealed for, the \$125K will be replaced.

There was discussion that over the last five or so years, the town has helped bring the overall tax rate to a level fund. This year however, the combined municipal and school combined tax rate increased 10%. Perhaps with the school roof being paid off this year, the Moretown Elementary School rate will decrease. The board intends to meet with the schoolboard next month.

Rae moved to set the 2015 tax rate as follows:

<u>Residential</u>		<u>non-Residential</u>	
Mun. Rate	\$0.3798	Mun. Rate	\$0.3798
Ed. Rate	<u>\$1.7281</u>	Ed. Rate	<u>\$1.4801</u>
Total Res.	\$2.1079	Total non-Res.	\$1.8599

John seconded. All were in favor.

Mountain Road job update – Rae updated the board that the plan is to coordinate the work with Martin, and the road crew will do the work for about \$2,000 total. Martin will need to get outside help to set the grade/level. The quote was about \$30K

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The board approved that Rae get DuBois to help with the grade work if need be.

Paving is scheduled for 8/17, but Rae will let Cheryl know the schedule once certain, so people can be notified.

Henry Lewis water issue – Rae reported that he can't tell if the water problem on Henry's property is from the town road or if it is coming from outside the town right of way. The water problem is not impacting the town road. Tom was out of town when Rae visited the site, so he and Martin will go and take another look.

Showacre Road trail – Martin concurred that there has been work done to the trail. The board will send the landowner who they think did the work (Joseph Galiazzo) a road maintenance permit application before any action is taken.

Appeal of Revocation of Grow Compost Solid Waste Certification – Martha asked what lead to the emergency decision to appeal.

Tom gave an explanation that the day after the Selectboard met, the town received notice of the revocation. Moretown's health officer Dick Valentinetti also received notification. Dick asked if he could contact the town's attorney for advice in dealing with the odor complaints forwarded the Town from the State.

Ron advised the town to appeal.

Because of the timing to meet the appeal deadline, Tom made the decision to move forward with the appeal. The Selectboard supported the decision by ratifying the urgent action taken by Tom on 7/13/15, via a motion at their 7/20/15 meeting.

Martha asked why the Town didn't install the help of its health officer for the landfill odor complaints.

The answer was that unlike the recent odor complaints, the State was handling the landfill complaints under MLI's Solid Waste Certification.

High Meadows Grant – John reported that a technical team is being initiated to come up ideas for the best use of the grant money. John and Dara Torre will remain involved. John will contact Kate O'Neill about a schoolboard member becoming involved.

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New Business:

Thomas’s resignation – It was decided that Thomas’s resignation was a personnel matter and needed to be discussed in executive session.

Tom moved; John seconded to enter into executive session at 8:30 pm. to discussion personnel matters whereby premature public knowledge would clearly place the town and person involved at a substantial disadvantage. All in favor.

John moved; Rae seconded to move out of executive session at 8:42. All were in favor.

Action: John moved to accept Thomas Maynard’s resignation effective 8/13/15. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

Discussion followed about renting / contracting versus hiring and buying our own equipment. Factors in the decision:

- Look at the budget
- 2007 truck problematic
- Hire a temporary person to plow
- Look and see what we paid Thomas in 2014, including benefits paid
- Equipment needs

The vacancy will be posted immediately so the search can begin while the board decides the outcome.

Battle of Bennington Day – Because the decision was made late that the Battle of Bennington Day would be a town holiday, the board will make exception to the “Tuesday” rule and meet on Monday, 8/17/15 as the Blodgett hearing was already planned.

Town hall repairs – List of repairs – rotted window sills and loose frames upstairs; mold downstairs. Cheryl will ask Joe Gabaree to take a look and give a cost for repairs that need to be done.

Approval of warrant’s # 37, 38, 39.

Tom moved to adjourn at 9:15 pm. Rae seconded. All were in favor.