

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

DRAFT – Unapproved minutes of the 12/21/15 Selectboard meeting

Board members present: Rae Washburn, Tom Martin, Jason Aronowitz, Michelle Beard, John Hoogenboom

Guests included: Henry Erickson, Elizabeth Burt, Jennifer Tripp Mead, Tracy Brannstrom, Steve Smith, Martin Cameron

Public Comment: No one was present tonight for public comment

Town Office project Henry Erickson – came in to go over four change orders with the board, all of which had been discussed as alternatives prior to the project construction. The change orders total \$12,436.40.

Tom moved to approve change order number's 5, 6, 7, & 8 as presented by Henry; Rae seconded. All were in favor.

Henry anticipates no major changes going forward other than the air control system for the vault, which they are in the process of getting a final ruling from the State of how it should be done.

Highway truck article – Martin brought in estimates for a new dump truck. The trade-in would be \$40,000-\$45,000 depending on where the truck is purchased. Prices for a new truck and dump body range from \$137,000 – \$154,000 after trade-in, depending on the make of truck. The board will continue deliberating whether or not to buy a new truck in 2016, and if so, financing.

- Discussion followed about: how many miles were put onto the 2007 truck this year – 9,000 miles. 15,000 miles if the road crew hauls the sand. Total mileage on the truck is 131,500.
- Discussion about parking the 2007 to lessen the chance for major repair costs, and wait until 2017 to purchase a new dump truck.
- Repair costs to the 2007 truck in 2014 were \$7,500; and \$12,723 in 2015.
- Currently we have a 2007, 2012 and 2015 truck.

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- Martin is taking measures to make the equipment last longer, such as undercoating the equipment

Jason plans to analyze payback options and maintenance costs.

Library budget – Elizabeth Burt and Jennifer Tripp Mead were present for the discussion on the proposed budget.

Jennifer explained the salary increase this year in part to the Vermont Library Association Personnel Salary Survey of 2012. VLA recommends a salary of \$20.41 hr. The library's proposal represents a salary of \$14.63 hr. for 16.5 hr. week (an increase of 1-1/2 hour week) for the librarian (Sarah Nussbaum); and an increase for the assistant librarian (Pat Yoder) from \$10.64 hr. to \$10.91 hr. The VLA survey indicates that overall librarians are getting paid \$16.18 per hr.

During budget work later in the evening when all budget request were being reviewed, it was determined that the proposal included a 9.6% overall increase to the library budget, in part due to a loss of grant funding. Perhaps the heating costs proposed can be reduced due to the drop in propane costs. The majority of the board feels that the library is a great town resource and offers good assistance to the public.

Further discussion was tabled until the 1/4/16 meeting.

Fire Department budget – Steve Smith was present for the discussion.

Steve said the fire department budget is pretty much level funded except for the 9% increase in dispatching costs, which he finds unacceptable. Steve plans to attend the next Capital West meeting and see if he can come up with a solution for the fire department dispatching needs.

Discussion followed about vehicle maintenance records being supplied to the Selectboard quarterly. Cheryl will send Steve a quarterly reminder to pass the report along.

Steve and Cheryl are working on the grant to buy a new fire truck (pumper/tanker), estimated to cost \$275,000 - \$300,000. The hope is to finish the application next week.

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Steve said on behalf of the fire department, they appreciate the stipend given them by the town.

General budget work discussion:

- Why are we paying so much for unemployment? Ask Cherilyn to contact VLCT about the town's responsibility to pay unemployment for a town officer.
- Mad River Resource Management – alliance dues increased from \$6,632 to \$9,948. John will reach out to John Malter to see what his plans are for 2016.
- Tax collector budget – the board would like Cherilyn to add a line in the budget for penalties.
- The Animal Control Officer should have a report in the town report of activities for the year.
- Send a note to the village residents that on both sides of 100B sidewalks will be worked on in 2017.
- Pre-Town Meeting Informational Meeting – Note on Front Porch Forum asking if anyone has an objection to having the informational meeting on Monday, February 22nd versus February 29th, the night before Town Meeting. The thoughts are that separating the events will be easier on people, and give taxpayers time to process the information given at the informational meeting, prior to voting, in case there are questions.
- How can the town reports be in the hands of voters sooner than what they have been? The board will ask the auditors how they can help get this done, and if reports can go on the town website at the same time they are sent to the printer.

Reports & Communication, Announcements –

Memo from Cherilyn re: 2015 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) – needs to be paid prior to getting a TAN to pay 2016 budgeted expenses until tax monies are raised.

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Cherilyn's memo provides the amounts needed to borrow from the Capital Reserve Fund (as was anticipated when the 2015 tax rate was set) to pay off the 2015 TAN, and the amount currently available in the General Fund. Either the 2016 TAN or the FEMA money will be used to reimburse the Capital Reserve Fund, which ever arrives first. Earlier this month FEMA approved the town get the full balance due (approx.. \$280K) for replacing the bridge on Spillway Road, but the funds most likely won't be in hand until Jan – Feb of 2016.

Tom moved to accept borrowing the monies from the Capital Reserve Fund and applying for a 2016 TAN as recommended in Cherilyn's memo of 12/16/15. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

Common Level of Appraisal – for 2016 was set by the State at 103.33%. Last year the CLA was 103.71%. A minor decrease, but still great.

SunCommon – Receipt of a copy of filings to Vt. Public Service Board from Jason Aronowitz and Diana Halsall in opposition to the Howes Road Solar Project.

Mad River Valley Economic Summit – John reported attending the summit and grant monies given (\$200) to the Moretown PTN as part of the valley Festival of Lights event. John added that the valley economy is looking very optimistic.

Delinquent taxes - Tom said he and Craig missed calls to one another. Michelle reported speaking to Craig. She said he listened to the tape and felt there was quite a lot of talk about "unearned" income on his part. Michelle said she explained the discussion to him, not being directed at him, but at the lack of public output so voters knew the taxes were due on 10/30 and post marks were no longer accepted exacerbating the number of delinquencies.

She also told Craig that the board is considering notifying people of the abatement process and may ask voters to vote a grace period to receive tax payments in 2016. Michelle told that she asked Craig to waive the penalties for those who paid their taxes on 11/2/15. Craig said he would consider it. She will follow-up with Craig.

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Approval of Minutes:

12/7/15 – Tom moved; John seconded to approve the minutes of 12/7/15 as revised. All were in favor.

New Business: None

Sign other documents presented:

Addison County Chamber of Commerce – Consent form to pass through Moretown on the 104 mile Vermont Gran Fondo cycling event to be held on 6/4/16. Signed.

Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Montpelier – for fire and emergency medical services. Signed.

Pace & Hawley – engagement letter for the review of the 2015 financials was signed.

Warrants approved for payment:

P/R - #15065 – ck# 17410 - 17411 and e-ck# 2068-2077
A/P - #15066 – ck# 17412 – 17427
A/P - #15067 – ck# 17269 (Eilers)
P/R - #15068 – ck# 17428 - 17438

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