

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

Draft – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 8/1/16 Selectboard meeting

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

Guests: Anne Greshin representing Mad River Recreation, Jay Pilliod of Efficiency Vt., John Girard Dicarlo, Martin Cameron, Derek and Omar Graddock of Morgan Stanley, Don LaRocca, Cheryl Brown as board assistant

5:00 pm – tonight’s meeting began at the site of the proposed new access to the Blodgett trail. In attendance: Calvin & Nancy Blodgett, Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom, Jason Aronowitz, Guy Martin and Michelle Beard. Discussed was that it appears the proposed new access could work to access Blodgett trail, as long as Mr. Case is still in agreement to deed the town a very small portion of his land for the legal trail. Tom will call Mr. Case.

6:00 pm – Tom called the Selectboard meeting to order.

Public Comment period – No one was present at this time for public comment.

Anne Greshin – came in for the Mad River Recreation Board (MRRB) to talk about the Mad River Park fields, owned by Kingsbury and currently being used. Anne said they are finishing up a 10-year lease and now Kingsbury wants to sell the park, which includes about 8 acres including the field they are now using. The selling price is \$550,000. MRRB currently pays \$6,000 per year to lease the field. Ann is talking with towns asking for help. Additional points of discussion.

- About 20% of the soccer and lacrosse kids using the Mad River Park field are from Moretown.
- Harwood Union High School fields are pretty maxed out. Events have to be staggered as is to accommodate all of the games.
- The new playground may interfere with Moretown’s soccer field.

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- MRRB will also be looking for grants, and private fundraising to help purchase/pay for the purchase of the Kingsbury land.
- MRRB looked at other land south of Irasville, finding that it would cost around \$200,000 to clear the land for fields.
- Moretown’s baseball fields are currently not being used.

Anne will tell the Mad River Recreation Board that Moretown has fields currently not being used that may be suitable for soccer and lacrosse fields and come back to this board in September with a response. At that time if the decision is to buy the Kingsbury land, tell the selectboard the amount MRRB is looking for from Moretown to help offset the purchase / loan payment costs. The selectboard would then consider MRRB’s request during the budget process.

Public Comment –

John Girard DiCarlo came in for public comment, to talk with the board about the lack of mowing maintenance at the fire station. John G. said the area behind the firestation and the river bank are not being mowed. John G. said this doesn’t look good and if left to grow up, may restrict access to/from the Mad River. John G. would like the town to maintain the grass.

Discussion followed that Martin oversees the mowing of town lands. He will check to be sure the area is clean of debris and ask Greg Wagner to mow at the firestation.

Jay Pilliod re: changing the street light bulbs to LED - Jay from the Moretown Energy Committee, presented a proposal from Efficiency Vermont to get the street lights switched to LED. Efficiency Vermont would work with Green Mountain Power to make it a non-cost issue for Moretown. There are 27 sidewalk lights in the village. There was discussion about the difference of and the advantage of LED lighting.

John moved; Michelle seconded to allow Tom sign the agreement presented by Jay tonight, and to accept the money from Efficiency Vermont for GMP to change the street lights to LED lighting. All were in favor.

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Morefest – celebration on 8/27/16 information:

- The fence at the ballfield is in rough shape, in part because RUGGCO used the area for staging equipment and supplies during the town office project, and in part because of general poor condition. RUGGCO will need to put the fence back to its original state, but the town needs to figure out whether to repair it, or tear it down completely.
- The town is furnishing two portable toilets. They will be placed by the shelter.
- There was discussion about replacing the stretch of fence RUGGCO needs to repair with a gate.
- The highway department is supplying cones for the car show.
- Food is needed for the bake sale. Contact Michelle Beard to arrange drop off.

Highway Reports & Communication:

Roadside mowing – Martin reported a call from the vendor that the roadside mower he rented wouldn't be available for another month. Martin spoke with the fellow mowing for the town of Berlin, who agreed to mow for Moretown in the River Road area for \$63 hr. Tom approved for Martin to hire that person. Martin is very happy with his work.

Dust – Michelle reported a call from a River Road resident about it being super dusty. It was determined that the period between grading and placing chloride could have been the issue. Martin suggested putting more money in the budget next year for chloride.

Investments – Omar and Derek Graddock from Morgan Stanley came tonight as experts for municipal fund investing.

Don started the presentation by saying the town invested with Merchants Trust, and at this point we are about even.

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At the last meeting Don was asked to contact Craig Eilers and ask him to look over our current investment portfolio, and to also contact investment firms and then bring their comments to the board. Craig hasn't offered his opinion. Omar and Derek are here tonight to offer the following:

- There are investment restrictions for government entities
- Morgan Stanley can offer flexibility and structure the types of investment accounts the town wants, and transparent management costs.
- Currently paying 1.5% in management fees with Merchants Trust. Morgan Stanley management fee (after later comments from John that 1.5% is too high) could be as low as 1% if the entire \$500K were to be invested.
- ThomasPartners, Inc. out of Boston Ma. handles the investing and trading based on the clients objective, but the funds stay with Morgan Stanley.

Omar suggested that the town determine how much we want to invest, and where (mutual funds/bonds/stock market) etc. and he will tell you how much in fees it will cost. He believes there is more risk in long term bonds, than in stocks at this time. Omar will gladly come back.

Don added that we are not getting from Merchants Trust what we thought we would get in the 1-1/2 years we've been with them. He will contact other investment firms, get Craig's comments and come back. Don will also find out what other towns are doing with their investments.

OLD BUSINESS:

TOWN OFFICE PROJECT -

Parking lot paving – The board asked the school for a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) stating what their needs are for the parking lot, but have received nothing yet. There also hasn't been a clear delineation on ownership of the entire parking lot or the boundary lines.

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The decision of the board is to scrap the paving this year.

Martin will use resources and the road crew to make the parking lot better, without spending \$30K for temporary paving.

Cheryl will let bidders know the town is holding off on the paving.

Extension to the grant for the town office – The town office grant expires on 12/31/16, so Cheryl will request an extension to the deadline.

Project cost and change orders – Henry Erickson came in tonight in case the board had questions on three new change orders he presented earlier this week. He said overall, the project cost is \$3,100 less than the contract.

Change order #21 for -\$1780 – a reduction in lift rental for painting- approved

Change order #22 for - \$990 – additional landscaping – there was much discussion regarding why the additional. Henry provided a landscaping plan and explained that the additional costs are for planting in the steep area on the side of the building. The garden group passed along their comments including what planting they intend to do; their idea for the steep slope is not to plant day lilies but rather bushes which would be easier to maintain, and fill in the slope and mow it. In the end change order #22 was approved.

Change order #23 - \$275 – was for an ADA parking sign and post. There was discussion about why this wasn't included in the contract if it is state law that we have one. Henry answered that it was missed in the drawings. – The change order was not approved. The road department will install the ADA sign.

The change order total on the contract will be adjusted to reflect the deletion on change order #23.

Punch List – The board, Henry Erickson, and Bill Gallup will meet on Wednesday, 8/3 at 6:15 to go over the punch list being created by Maclay during his visit with the contractor.

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2016 tax rate – The tax rate worksheet handed out on 7/18/16 was reviewed by the board. Jason said he originally had concerns using last year’s surplus, but his is fine with using it now.

Tom moved to set the 2016 tax rate as follows:

Residential: 0.25797 municipal
 1.7274 education
 1.98537

Non-residential: 0.25797 municipal
 1.4855 education
 1.74347

John seconded. All were in favor.

Blodgett litigation – Earlier tonight board members walked the land being proposed as a new access for the Blodgett trail, which will run from the Moretown Mountain Road – across the Cox Brook- and meet the Blodgett trail. If Mr. Case is still amenable to deeding the town a portion of his land for the new access, details for a settlement will be based on the Stipulation of Settlement dated September 2014.

Schultz screening – Annette provided a quote from Ed Reed of \$3,375 to furnish and install (15) 6’ Dark Green Arborvitae for screening.

John will contact Ed Reed to see if he will give additional off if the town buys trees from him to screen the sand pile area.

Reports & Communication, Announcement -

Arthur Buck Park dedication – to Craig Elwell will be held at the park on Route 2, on 8/4/16 at 4:30 in the afternoon. John will speak about Craig.

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Public Service Board – re: 6/24/16 request by GMP for supplemental Net Metering was granted.

Douglass request for an access onto Route 2 – approximately 110' east of the Majestic Drive was denied.

Moretown Landfill closure permit hearing from 7/14/16 – for Cells 2 and 3, involving the installation of a permanent cap on about 18 acres, and drilling and installation of six landfill gas extraction wells. There will be another hearing scheduled once the filing of supplemental information has been received by DEC.

Park & Ride grant – A cost estimate needs to be done for the park & ride grant application. The board approved having Doug Newton prepare the estimate. Rae will contact Doug.

Town hall drainage – needs to be repaired. Water is coming in when it rains.

Pressure wash town building – Ten contractors were contacted to give quotes to wash four town buildings.

Rae moved to hire Steve Sanchez of Sanchez Painting in Warren, to pressure wash the town hall, town garage, fire station and library for a price not to exceed \$1,550. Tom seconded. All were in favor.

Cobb Hill retaining wall failure – near the Pam Nelson residence. Pam will pay for the disposal of the tires; the town will place stone to replace the tires.

PSB applications – Jason reported that Waitsfield, Warren and Fayston (Mad River Valley Planning District's Steering Committee) could team up to plan for provisions for an energy plan within the town plan, whereby towns are parties in Vermont Act 174 applications within the town.

Noise at the sand pit area – Recently there was a complaint about noise in the sand pit at 6 am. Martin said Elwin did fuel up the grader at 6:30 am that morning, but was not there earlier than that.

Discussion followed that unless it is an emergency, or winter maintenance, stay out of the sand pit until 7 am; at times it may be necessary to be in there before 7 am; and that overall neighbors are being reasonable. The town crew is doing a good job. Plans are moving forward to do plantings behind the Hicks Yews currently in place for additional noise protection, and to plant trees on the Harris property. John is negotiating prices with Ed Reed.

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Approval of minutes – 7/18/16

Michelle moved; John seconded to approve the minutes of 7/18/16 as written. All were in favor.

Warrants approved –

P/R #16041 – e – ck # 2227-2237 and check # 17953

A/P #16042 – ck# 17954-17962

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.