

Town of Moretown  
Office of the SELECT BOARD

Members present: Stephanie Venema, Clark Amadon, Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom arrived at 6:15. Reed Korrow was absent.

Guests: Jonathan Siegel, Rube Scharges, Amy Bolger, Vee Lynch, Becky Ciampi, Sean O'Brien, Rob Roberts, Cheryl Brown as board assistant

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Jonathan Siegel** – asked what is happening with finding a place for the town offices? He said we tried to get together with the schoolboard but that didn't work. Do we want to keep the town offices in the village, if so, we have relatively few options. We need to come up with a plan. Studies show we need about 2,000 square feet for the town office, the two older school rooms equal 1,600 square feet. Builders estimate the cost to build is \$150 per square feet.

Stephanie advised that there may be mitigation grant money available for buildings, but that would be for mitigation only, not to enlarge the building.

**Becky Ciampi** – learned tonight that there is heat in the town hall. Now she will call the water filtration people so the water can be turned back on. She handed out information for flooring materials and wall materials ie: work that needs to be done. There are no rentals scheduled for the remainder of this year.

John said the priority is the town offices, and suggested limiting the repairs to the bathroom and pick items off the bid sheets.

Stephanie said decisions need to be made about what we want to do with the kitchen ie: warming kitchen or a cooking kitchen etc.

**10/17/11 minutes** – approval of meeting minutes of 10/17 was deferred

**Draft** – unapproved minutes of the 11/7/11 selectboard meeting

**Rob Roberts –**

**2012 town budget** – Rob provided a draft budget which was reviewed briefly tonight. The board will meet again on 11/14 to work on the budget after they have had the chance to review Rob’s draft. Stephanie provided an outline of decision that the board needs to address during this year’s budget work.

**Abatements** – Rob said the State will reimburse the towns for the school share of the tax bill for abated taxes. But if taxes are abated, the town must abate the town share as well. According to State guidelines, only properties with 50% or greater loss qualify for abatement and the property must be unusable for at least 90 days. Rob think any abatement hearings will begin in December.

**Reports & Communication, Announcements –**

**Lister budget - Jeff Ladue** – submitted a proposal to do lister work in the town office one day a week. He would perform the lister work for \$12,500 per year. The other two listers would continue to work with Jeff to do inspections and make other decisions as has been happening in the past, and Charlene Lathrop would continue as the listers secretary and she would train Jeff how the various programs are used and what needs to be done to keep the work up to date.

**Zoning Administrator budget – Deborah Feldman** provided a \$24,000 plus health insurance budget proposal for 2012. She said the increase is due to increased responsibilities of the Moretown website, E-911 Coordinator, and the increased hours that will continue to be necessary as people rebuild after Tropical Storm Irene.

**Bob Mays** – submitted a resignation from the Moretown Library Trustees effect 11/1/11. Karen Sharpwolf is interested in filling in for Bob until Town Meeting.

Stephanie moved; seconded by Clark to appoint Karen Sharpwolf as Library Trustee to fill the vacancy until Town Meeting. All were in favor.

**Dan Lynch** – submitted a resignation from the Moretown Planning Commission effective immediately.

**Carl Wimble** – submitted a letter to the selectboard, asking that they not allow Kevin Collins to be involved in the town hall electrical repairs.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Flood recovery updates -**

**Town Offices placement** – John said placement of the town offices is high priority, and we may need a town forum for public input.

Jonathan said the schoolboard needs to be involved in any discussion that involves moving the town offices to the Moretown Elementary School.

Clark feels a skilled facilitator to run the forum might be helpful, to get the maximum input from the public in a collaborative environment. Efforts should be made to get a good public turnout. We need an outline in writing for handout of the town office needs; what the planning commission found as suitable sites; and what the restrictions are.

John said we also need to know the costs associated if we were to build a new building; retrofit the school (vault); and decide what we want for an outcome from the public forum.

Clark will talk with a facilitator to see if we are ready for a forum, and report back to the board at their special meeting on 11/14.

Jonathan will outline the planning commission’s findings from the study they have been working on this year.

John will talk with Kaj.

**Committee updates** – Tom said the committee formed to investigate how the monies donated to the town from Tropical Storm Irene, have met twice to form a plan about how to give out donations. Tom explained the evaluation rating process. There is no application process as the formula fits everyone impacted by the flood. Tom thinks money should be dispersed around Thanksgiving Day.

**Resident flood assistance** - Clark explained that committees formed to assist flood victims with paperwork/grants/repairs, etc., are going door to door.

**Draft** – unapproved minutes of the 11/7/11 selectboard meeting

**Road related information** – Stephanie said Witt Associates has been hired by the State to assist towns with FEMA paperwork. She may ask Witt to assist us. We have a new FEMA contact now and Stuart took him look at repair sites. It was indicated that he (FEMA/Dave) questioned the rip-rap/box culverts/bridge in such a manner that indicated FEMA may not pay for those items without mitigation paperwork. This is an area that Stephanie might need assistance from Witt Associates.

**River Road phase III reimbursement** paperwork has been received for signatures. Stephanie will get that back to Karen Smith later this week, so we should be receiving that money this year. It reimbursement will be about \$46,000.

**Town hall landscaping** – Tom reported to John, that he heard from Ruth VanHeuven that there are sink holes in the front yard (by the steps) that need to be repaired.

**Update on the survey of the Blodgett trail** – Cheryl will call American Consulting Engineering & Surveying for an update.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**New equipment trailer** – Stuart reported that the town’s 1988 equipment trailer needs to be replaced. Tom said he did look at the old trailer and it is indeed in bad shape. Stuart wants to purchase a new Eager Beaver trailer for \$16,000.

Discussion followed about the need for a trailer before spring time; about borrowing a trailer from another town; and how the trailer would be paid for if purchased.

**Narrow bridge on the south end of town** – John reported that the entrance onto the bridge is very wide then it narrows so quickly that he feels it is dangerous. John also mentioned holes in the bridge pavement. He will call Tom Anderson at VTrans and report his concerns.

#### **Review invoices and approve selectboard orders –**

Warrant number 65, 66, 67, 68, 69 and 70 were approved by the board.

**Draft** – unapproved minutes of the 11/7/11 selectboard meeting

**Other documents presented for signature –**

**Error & Omission from the listers for Pennsylvania Power & Light (PP&L)** – from the listers to increase the grand list, was signed and will be given to the lister so they can create a new tax bill.

**Andy Mays** – The board signed a letter thanking Andy Mays for his donation of 225 pounds of lobster that he furnished for the Labor Day flood support feast.

**Schaller abatement** – The board signed a letter prepared by Paul Gillies denying relief for a portion of her tax bill that she claimed was interest and collection fees caused as a result of her not being able to get information from the town listers for her homestead exemption.

Stephanie moved; seconded by John to adjourn at 9:30. All were in favor.