

Town of Moretown
Office of the SELECTBOARD

Draft – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 11/21/11 Selectboard meeting

Board members present: Stephanie Venema, Reed Korrow, Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom. Clark Amadon was absent.

Guests included: Sean O'Brien, Ray Munn, Jonathan Siegel, Rube Scharges, Lucinda Newman, Rob Roberts, Kara Herlihy, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

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

Public comment:

Raymond Munn –

Town hall flood repairs – Raymond asked if bids were opened for the town hall repairs. He understood there were a couple of bids received.

There has not been a scope of work done yet, so bids received prior to the scope of work may need to be revised.

Town offices at the town hall – Raymond said it may make sense to convert the town hall into town offices, and he would like that option to be considered. The Planning Commission did include the town hall in their study of sites for a town office, and further investigations by a committee will include review of the PC's study.

Bridge on TH #24 Bridge Road – Raymond brought up that it might be better to build a road to the Sainsbury Farm, rather than replace the bridge and take the chance it could be lost again. Ray asked if the town was going to get money from the scrapped bridge. The answer was no.

Status of the Moretown Landfill Act 250 application – John reported that there is no official word, but Tom Badowski thinks since the application has been down-sized, it looks better for permitting.

Constable training – Ray said unless our two constables receive training by July 2012, they will lose some of their law enforcement powers.

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Approval of minutes:

10/17/11 – approval was tabled

11/7/11 – Stephanie moved; seconded by John to approve the minutes of 11/7/11. John, Stephanie and Tom were in favor. Reed abstained from voting because he was absent for that meeting.

11/14/11 – Stephanie moved; seconded by John to approve the minutes of 11/14/11. All were in favor.

Sean O'Brien re: fire department articles and budget –Sean said the fire department budget hasn't really changed, but he does want two articles.

1. **Radios - \$12,000** –Sean said we need new radios by 2013 for the new UHF frequency. Stephanie asked if a grant was written. Sean said yes, a grant was written, but then the flood happened and the deadline was missed. Sean said the next grant will be in the spring of 2012, but they wouldn't know until the fall if they got the grant. He wants to order the radios before the fall of 2012.
2. **Used back-up pumper truck - up to \$50,000** –Sean said in order for Moretown to hold up our end of mutual aid, we need to replace the truck lost in the flood. The town received \$7,000 from insurance for the lost 1979 fire truck.

The board will consider Sean's request during when they consider other article requests.

Sean also mentioned that it would be nice to put stay mat in front of the fire station to cover up nails dropped during the flood clean up. Also if stay mat could be placed along the side of the station it would increase parking.

Reed will talk with Stuart tomorrow about getting it done.

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REPORTS & COMMUNICATION, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paul Tartaglia – sent a letter to the selectboard the town to consider hiring a Civil Engineer to look at the bridge on Tarts Road for a remedy that would prevent the bridge from frequent wash outs.

Reed thinks part of the problem is there is no vegetation around the bridge. Reed will let Stuart know about the letter and give Stuart a copy for his feedback.

Before anything is done, a hydraulics test would be done to determine what size/type culvert would be best.

Keith and Laura Schaller – wrote expressing their disappointment with the abatement decision letter dated 11/9/21. Rob will call the Schallers and talk with them about scheduling a hearing.

Valley Rental–All notification that effective November 1st, they will require all charge clients to keep a credit card on file to pay any balances over 60 days. Moretown will not provide Valley Rent-All with a credit card. Cheryl will call them and see if they make exceptions for municipalities.

Washington County Sheriff's Department –report of services was reviewed.

Reed reported on highway business -

Meeting with Stuart Grandfield – and requested that he meet with the road crew every Monday morning and make plans for the week.

Old Route 100B - Reed reported that there has been a request from residents to patch the asphalt because of the poor condition of Old Route 100B. Stuart thinks because residents wouldn't let Craig do necessary ditch work to the road over the last several years, it contributed to the roads present condition. Discussion followed about grinding up the old pavement and making the road's surface gravel. Between now and the 12/5 meeting, board members will go and take a look at the road.

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Grader training – the board wants Martin Cameron to have training to run the grader. Reed said he was told that mud season is a good time to train a person, because they can't hurt the condition of the road more than it already is.

Hurdle Road signage – report that the Hurdle Road sign is down. Tom said some of the road signs are leaning too. Reed will let Stuart know.

Abatement hearings – Rob said the longer we wait to hold abatement hearings, the more information we will have on the State reimbursement policy. He spoke with Jim Barlow at VLCT and found that he may be working on a “flood affected properties” abatement policy model.

2012 budget work: Rob thinks we are at the point where the board can review and make changes to the draft he presented tonight.

Flood repair costs - How to budget for flood costs for road and bridge repairs was discussed, and the fact that it will be hard to predict what those costs will be by the time the budget needs to go to print for the town report.

Lister budget – Jeff Ladue and Ed Clodfelter have submitted proposals to do lister work. Jeff as a town employee; Ed via a contract. Using both proposals in options creates a significant difference in the bottom line lister's budget (one \$21,483 and the other \$14,225) , so both Jeff and Ed will be invited to come and meet with the selectboard to examine the options and explain their proposal.

Planning Commission re: submittal of the town office placement study –

Jonathan provided a copy of the findings of the planning commissioner's study on options for what the best location would be for the town offices. The PC was charged a year or so ago with this task, because the current town office had become too small for all the people that needed to work there. Discussion included: converting the town hall into a town office, and how it would change the character of the building; the price to build a new town office; handicap accessibility.

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Tom reported that Duane Pierson has been charged by the schoolboard with doing a study to see if it is feasible for the town offices to share space at the school. Jonathan will send Duane a copy of the planning commissioner's report. Tom thinks there needs to be a committee, consisting of people from the schoolboard, selectboard, community, etc., to figure out the best option.

John read aloud a draft letter prepared by Tom that would be from the schoolboard and the selectboard, regarding the need for a place to house the town offices, for the need of a committee to study options for housing the town offices, and the need for public input throughout the process. There was discussion about how to distribute/publish the joint board letter.

Stephanie moved; seconded by John that we organize a committee to explore options for housing the town offices and to put Tom's letter on the Front Porch Forum, in My View of The Valley Reporter, and in the Waterbury Record. All were in favor.

Announcements:

John announced the 1st meeting of the Mad River Valley Planning District re: Tropical Storm Irene and everything that happened as a result, the future of the Mad River, gravel extractions, and better communications between all Mad River Valley towns. Guests included selectboard members from Valley towns, Government personnel including Governor Shumlin, VLCT and CVRPC personnel, as well as ANR and AOT personnel.

Discussion included the cost to join the Mad River Planning District, and what the District could do for Moretown.

OLD BUSINESS:

Flood donations – Tom reported that the flood donations have not gone out yet, but they will hopefully later this week.

Flood reimbursement/costs – Stephanie is working with FEMA, filling out and submitting lots of paperwork. We need to get engineer bids for the new bridge soon.

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Town hall repairs – John has the list of what repairs are needed from Becky Ciampi, and will be preparing a scope of work.

Equipment trailer – Reed said he asked Stuart about the immediate need for a new trailer. Stuart said you never know when you might need the trailer to remove snow/flooding etc. There was discussion about the \$40,000+ coming for reimbursement of expenses from last year’s River Road project, and the board wants to wait to see if we get that money before making a decision about how to pay for the purchase. There will be more discussion on 12/5/11.

Status of Blodgett trail survey –American Consulting Engineers & Surveyors know the land records will be back next week and that the selectboard is anxious to get the survey completed.

New business:

Road crew goals – discussion was tabled.

Hydraulic testing before culvert maintenance –the board discussed that in order to ensure that proper sized culverts are being installed in town roads, going forward hydraulic testing will be done prior to installing/replacing new culverts. Reed has a copy of the Code & Standards adopted in January 2011, for Moretown’s roads and bridges, and intends to bring up the subject again in January before the 2012 adoption is done.

Study for stream bank damage/debris questionnaire – Stephanie reported there is a questionnaire which would survey all rivers and banks in Moretown and find out what shape our river is in. Steve Gladzucuk of CVRPC will see if a river scientist is available to help with the survey. Stephanie thinks it is a good idea since CVRPC in conjunction with AOT would pay for the study. Stephanie will contact Steve.

Documents for board signature – A request for Federal assistance was signed, asking for assistance under the Emergency Watershed Protection project, that would provide 75% to restore damages to streambanks and clear debris sustained in Tropical Storm Irene.

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Warrant #71, 72, and 73 – were approved for payment.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.