

Town of Moretown
Office of the Select Board

Draft – Unapproved minutes of the 1/16/12 selectboard meeting

Board members present were: John Hoogenboom, Stephanie Venema, Reed Korrow, Tom Martin, Clark Amadon

Guests included: Diana Costello, Stuart Grandfield, Eric Howes, Katy Miller, Shane Grace, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

John called the meeting to order at 6:05 and gave a brief overview of tonight's agenda

Budget work –

Highway work in 2012 – Stuart provided an outline of plans for road work he wants to do in 2012.

Moretown Common/Hathaway clay bank slide - There was discussion about the need to repair a bank slide on the back side of the Common Road (TH#5), how it would be paid for and if the town could do the work. Stuart estimated the job to be about \$35,000 to excavate out the clay and replace it with rock, and thinks it is too big a job for the road crew to do. He doesn't think the rock from the landfill is a good type or size to use for this job. Stuart feels this repair needs to be done in 2012.

Stephanie will ask Better Back Road to come and look at the site, and ask if they would help pay for the project thru grant funding.

The board will talk more about how to pay for this road repair at a special meeting on Monday, January 23rd.

Moretown Mountain Road resurfacing – The grant to resurface about 1000' feet of the Mountain Road is \$40,000 and is good until July13, 2013.

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Lover's Lane Road bank stabilization – The work would need to be contracted out because our excavator doesn't have a long enough reach. The project would be paid in part by a Better Back Roads grant.

Diana Costello – assistance from the town to maintain the commuter parking lot - Diana came in for the school board, saying because the town now owns a pickup that is used to plow our smaller roads, it would help the school's budget if the town would maintain the commuter parking lot next year. There was discussion to note that the town pays for all of the mowing of the recreation fields which was why the school paid for the cost of plowing the commuter parking lot.

Diana said overall it helps the taxpayers if the town spends money rather than the school, because of the per pupil spending calculation formula.

Reed moved; seconded by Tom that the town will maintain the commuter/school parking lot in the 2012-2013 snowplow season.

There was discussion about the parking lot being plowed by 7:00 a.m. when kids get dropped off. Stuart said that wouldn't be a problem. If Duane has any problems he should contact a member of the selectboard or Stuart.

Vote: All were in favor.

More highway budget business –

New equipment trailer -

Stuart said he found out the trailer will probably cost about \$18,000 now, but they have one in stock for \$16,900 that he will look at. The board asked Stuart to provide a written quote and to be sure the price of the trailer was the State pricing before a motion is made.

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Raises and bonuses –

Stuart said he isn't happy that there will be no raises this year, but one person got a \$2,000 raise because of the work she did/will do related to Irene. He said it isn't fair, we all worked hard during and after the flood.

Stephanie said the person is not getting a raise. She is working additional hours due to flood related zoning applications, and because of added duties due to the interim zoning that was adopted.

Tom said the increase to the zoning administrator salary has nothing to do with how Stuart is evaluated, and that some people will be compensated via bonuses.

Public Comment:

Eric Howes – asked if the board has looked at what it cost to plow our own side (small) roads last year with the town pickup? Stephanie will run that report.

Eric asked if the equipment trailer would have an article at Town Meeting or would it be in the budget? The board said neither, it will be in the Capital Budget and purchased from the Capital Reserve Fund.

Katy Miller & Shane Grace - Katy and Shane want the fire truck that was put in their yard during the flood, out of their yard immediately. Shane and Eric will see if they can safely drive the flooded vehicle out of Shane's yard and put it in the sand pile yard.

More budget work and Town Meeting articles –

Constable budget – There was discussion about reducing the constable training budget, but before they do that Dave VanDeusen will be notified.

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More Raises & bonuses –

Reed moved; seconded by Stephanie to enter into executive session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss employee related issues whereby general public knowledge would clearly place the persons involved, and the town, at a disadvantage. All were in favor.

Stephanie moved; seconded by John to exit executive session at 8:20 p.m. All were in favor.

Only full-time road crew personnel will be given the \$250 bonus.

Approval of minutes:

10/17/11 and **1/3/12** – Stephanie moved; seconded by Reed to approve the minutes of 10/17/11 and 1/3/12 minutes. All were in favor.

Reports & Communication, Announcements –

Charlene Lathrop resignation – The board received a resignation from the lister's secretary Charlene Lathrop effective immediately.

Tom moved; seconded by Stephanie to accept the resignation of Charlene Lathrop. All were in favor.

The board would like Ed Clodfelter to come in and talk with the board or members of the board, about what he is willing to do to assist the listers now that Charlene has resigned. Cheryl will contact Ed to see what time works best for him.

Old Business:

Town Office placement - Clark gave a report from the town office committee meeting. Recommendations have been made to the town office committee that the town should rent someplace and relocate the town offices temporarily.

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There was discussion about what amount VLCT would pay for monthly rent. The town office committee will continue to investigate available properties. They meet again 1/19/12.

Insurance adjuster estimates for the town office, fire station and the town hall flood repairs – still have not been received.

Blodgett survey – American Consulting Engineering & Surveyors is finishing up the survey.

New Business:

Purchase of new highway equipment trailer – *see page 2.*

Review invoices and approve selectboard orders:

Warrant # 4 was approved as submitted.

Stephanie moved; to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. All were in favor.