

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

Draft – Unapproved minutes of the 6/18/12 selectboard meeting

Board members present: Tom Martin, Reed Korrow, Clark Amadon, Michelle Beard, John Hoogenboom

Guests included: Scott Sainsbury, Raymond Munn, Rachel Goff, Sean O'Brien, Don LaRocca, Sandra and Clayton Wetzel, Mike Woodard, Martin Cameron, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

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

Public Comment:

Raymond Munn – road maintenance- Ray said Martin is doing a great job on the roads and grading.

Constable duties – Ray read a letter he got from the Vermont League of Cities & Towns, identifying constable duties as of 7/1/12, saying unless a constable is certified, no blue light enforcement can be done and constables are very limited as to what they can do.

Reports & Communication, Announcements:

Hedges by Hurdle Road – Dick Hosking from VTrans notified the town that a STOP sign at Hurdle Road / Route 100B intersection is 90% obscured by the cedar hedge adjacent to Frank Piazza's property, creating a safety issue because motorists cannot see the sign and may not stop before entering 100B. Because the sign is in the town right of way, as Tree Warden, John Hoogenboom will contact Frank to see about trimming the hedgerow. John will also find out if moving the sign is an option.

Sink holes in the village – Michelle reported two sink holes in the village, between the post office/bridge and the old town offices. VTrans repaired the holes.

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Road Crew training – Martin and Rodney successfully completed Better Backroads training regarding on road erosion control management practices on 5/18/12. This workshop counts towards the training requirements of the VTrans and Town Road and Bridge Standards.

Tom Gibbs resigned as lister – Tom Gibbs provided a letter of resignation dated 6/15/12, citing the current environment that exists in the selectboard and offices of the Town as being the reason for the resignation.

Clark moved; seconded by Reed, to accept the resignation from Tom Gibbs as lister effective 7/1/12.

Discussion: Tom M. said it is nice to have two listers at the grievance hearings, but only one is needed by law. Tom M. will call Tom G. and talk with him about his resignation.

Zack Casey from Green Mountain Power re: Bridge #49 replacement – Evan Detrick of DuBois & King, Moetown’s engineer for the bridge project, forwarded an email from Zack, which stated his approval for the utility pole relocation for the new bridge location.

Neal Mostov re: invasive species in stockpiled river gravel - Neal phoned advising that he has noticed an invasive species growing in the stockpiled river gravel at the Wimble’s. Neal urged the town to use the gravel in areas that already show signs of knotweed growth.

List of unregistered dogs – Cherilyn provided a list of dogs that still aren’t registered in Moretown. Board members divided the list and will make calls to the dog owners.

Angela (Van Deusen) Ogle of Lynch Hill – phoned requesting road maintenance to Lynch Hill Road.

Email from Sandra and Clayton Wetzel of Herring Brook Road – where they notified other property owners of their intent to attend tonight’s meeting when the selectboard is scheduled to discuss maintenance on class 4 roads.

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Approval of Minutes:

6/4/12 – Clark moved; seconded by Reed to approve the minutes of 6/4/12 as amended to include; ***Moretown wasn't on the listing of AFG grants awarded printed from the internet, but Sean said Moretown did receive an AFG grant in 2005.*** All were in favor.

6/7/12 – John moved; seconded by Michelle to approve the minutes of 6/7/12 as amended to include; the town has thrown up only one trail, ***which ended on private property.*** And John finds it tremendously drastic to throw up a ***class III*** road, because when it is gone, it is gone. All were in favor except Reed, he was absent for the 6/7/12 meeting.

Steve Sharp was unable to attend tonight's meeting

Sean O'Brien – fire department business:

Traffic certification – The board asked Sean how often and how much it costs for the fire department to get traffic certification, and if the road crew and constables can join the training?

Sean said he will set up the training, and let the town know when and where it will be so all can come.

Radio upgrade – The 4/9/12 minutes reflected a question asked about why the fire department had to get new radios and the road crew did not. Sean said that was because most of the fire departments radios were old.. pre-2000, and not equipped to handle the new frequency. The 6/4/12 minutes reflected that Moretown was not on the list of American Firefighter Grants (AFG) awarded. Sean said the town was awarded an AFG in 2005 for radios. Sean added that recently Chris Colletto, a Town of Berlin Fireman, assisted Moretown's fire department in applying for a grant for new radios. He is still waiting to hear if we were awarded the grant. They are also working on an AFG grant for more radios.

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Lock box – Sean said if there were a lock box and only the fire department had a key, and there was a fire they wouldn't need to break windows etc. He wonders if there should be a lockbox on the new building.

Fire department other business – Sean reported that there have been more calls of the fire department lately - they have eleven new members – they meet every Tuesday night – the firemen are in the process of taking classes.

Old Business:

Lister assistance contract - Tom moved; seconded by Clark to enter into executive session at 6:55 p.m. for contract negotiations, where premature public knowledge could place the town or person involved at a disadvantage. All were in favor.

John moved; seconded by Michelle to come out of executive session at 7:05 p.m. All were in favor.

Tom will contact the listers and ask if they would like to come into the 7/2/12 to discuss getting help for them to complete their work in 2012-2013.

*more old business later

Don LaRocca – more on the Investment Policy – Don provided a draft investment policy, explaining as it was reviewed that a policy can be amended at any time as needed. The draft included criteria for an investment council and discussion followed about what the requirements should be in order to be on the investment council. It was stressed that the selectboard has sole responsibilities to execute the investment decisions, not the investment council. Revisions were made to the draft submitted. Don will come back on 7/16/12.

more old business

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Highway business:

Road foreman needs/vacancy – Reed reported that Norm Andrews recommended that Martin be promoted to foreman with a probationary period. Reed supported Martin being the foreman and that Rodney being promoted to senior machinery operator, and with Norm’s part-time help we would be in good shape for now.

Reed moved; seconded by Tom to appoint Martin Cameron as Road Foreman with a one-year probationary period, and to promote Rodney Huntoon as Senior Equipment Operator.

Discussion about any increase in pay associated with the promotions will be held later tonight in executive session. Vote: All were in favor.

John Hoogenboom left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Road worker vacancy – There were five applications received for the road worker position, which Martin has reviewed and has two people he considers qualified and plans to interview.

Reed said Martin and Norm will make the recommendations about who will be hired.

Moretown Mountain Road resurfacing project – Martin will continue to get firm prices to hire trucks to haul gravel to resurface a portion of the Moretown Mountain Road, before the 7/2/12 meeting. The project will be paid for with a Class II highway grant through VTrans.

River gravel stockpiled – Martin is taking care to look out for knotweed before when using the river gravel.

Class IV road maintenance policy – The Wetzels are full-time residents on the class IV portion (about 2/10th mile from where class III ends) of Herring Brook Road. They requested that Herring Brook Road be classified as A on the class IV road plan. Meaning that at the selectboard’s discretion the road could receive periodic winter maintenance such as pushing back snow banks to facilitate private plowing.

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Mike Woodard has a hunting camp on Herring Brook Road about a mile from where the plowing stops (Bob and Deb Sargent's). He said the road is drivable, but he has spent considerable money on the road, and has plowed it for over 25 years. He would like the town to dump 8-10 truckloads of gravel on the road, and to ditch and grade the class IV road. He would also like the road plowed by the town once or twice per year. Mike claimed that when loggers get done their job, they do not fix the road.

Clayton said nothing has been done to Herring Brook Road since the flood.

Martin will take a look at the road then have a site visit with the board if necessary. The board assistant will notify Mike and the Wetzel's of any site visit.

When asked why Jones Brook Road might be graded and Herring Brook is not, Martin explained that Herring Brook Road was upgraded from class IV to class III, but there are factors associated with the grading frequency ie: powelines close to the road surface, gravel needed on the surface to bring the road to class III standards, and traffic volumes that are considered.

Clayton said there is a lot of traffic people don't know about, and explained the abuse from mud trucks.

Tom said the town is working on having consistency of the grader running on a regular basis, and we will be up there looking at the road conditions.

Clark said we only have so much money and it is difficult to decide what road gets priority.

TH #05 bankslide – Reed hasn't gotten an estimate to repair the slide from Norm.

Blodgett trail #49 – Paul Gillies was in today to finish the title search work so, there should be a warning ready soon for a site visit and hearing date.

Host Town Agreement - Clark reported that Tom Badowski is interested in another one-year extension to the current Host Agreement, in part because the State of Vermont is looking at the "Public Trust" policy as part of the review of cell IV which will take time. Clark reported that there is space in the landfill until March of 2013.

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Ward Brook box culverts – E.A. Grandfield has finished installing the box culverts and they are ready for inspection by VTrans.

Reed moved; seconded by Michelle to enter into executive session at 9:00 p.m. for employee pay negotiations where premature general public knowledge would place the town and employees involved at a substantial disadvantage. All were in favor.

Reed moved; seconded by Michelle to come out of executive session at 9:15 p.m. All were in favor.

Reed moved; seconded by Michelle that effective 6/4/12 Martin Cameron’s pay be increased from \$15.00 per hour to \$17.00 per hour, and Rodney Huntoon’s pay be increased from \$16.09 per hour to \$16.50 per hour. Both are to be paid retroactive from 6/4/12, and in six months salaries will be revisited. All were in favor.

New Business:

Town Liaisons – appointments are as follows:

Health Officer	John Hoogenboom
Road Department	Reed Korrow
Town Clerk/Treasurer	Michelle Beard
Listers	Tom Martin
Fire Department	Reed Korrow
Town Hall Directors	Tom Martin and Clark Amadon
Animal Control Officer	John Hoogenboom
Planning Commission	John Hoogenboom
School Directors	Clark Amadon

Invoices were reviewed and warrant #'s 41, 42, and 43 were approved.

Reed moved; seconded by Michelle to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. All were in favor.