

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

**DRAFT** – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 10/1/12 selectboard meeting

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

Guests included: Ray Munn, Eric Howes, Lisa Ransom, Scott Baughman, Dean Moulton, Tom Badowski, Calvin Blodgett, Route 2 Neighbors: Tom & Martha Douglass, Raoul Cervantes, Paul & Susan Nadeau, Mark Fischer, David & Chris Belanger, Billie Jo Litchfield, Ron & Dianne Doyle, Max & Sandy Fortune, Stephen & Amy Shaefer, Mary Ann Raymond, Keith Llewellyn, Rick Blake, and Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

Tom called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave a brief overview of tonight's agenda.

**Public Comment:**

**Eric Howes -**

**Hurdle Road stop sign** - Eric asked the status of the Hurdle Road stop sign.

John said the hedge has been trimmed and he is waiting for the State to approve.

Ray suggested if the hedge is in the town right of way, trim it.

Tom advised that John is trying to get a clear definition from the State about how much more trimming needs to be done, and is working with the property owner (Frank Piazza).

John will get together with Frank again.

**Administrative Assistant bonus** – Eric said he was not pleased with the bonus that was given out a few weeks ago, not knowing with all the expenses that might be coming up. He said the consequences with other people in town might be more than what was originally thought. He said he understands the intent, but he is not overly pleased that the bonus was given.

Tom explained for those who don't know the whole story, that since Tropical Storm Irene, Cheryl has taken on additional duties to recover storm related expenses from FEMA/State, duties unrelated to the duties of the administrative assistant. Tom said he has investigated, and Moretown is in the top percentage for recovery of reimbursements received for flood expenses, and the bonus was compensation for the additional time worked specifically for flood related work that Cheryl has done. Tom added that at least six different towns have hired recovery specialists to do what Cheryl has been doing, so in comparison, the money she got isn't a lot of money from a business standpoint.

Eric suggested that in the future it might be helpful to get the word out to townspeople before the money is given.

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**Ray Munn –**

**Dogs running loose on Moretown Common** – Ray said there are a lot of dogs running loose on Moretown Common, with no collars or tags. When he tried to get near dogs that were on his property, they growled at him. He said the town needs someone to take care of dogs. Ray thinks Fayston pays their dog warden \$2,000 per year.

The board will call other towns to get the name of their dog warden, what they pay them, and if it is ok to ask that person to help Moretown out with animal control.

Ray also spoke about other issues on Moretown Common where roosters are attacking visitors and people damming up town ditches to provide water for their ducks.

**Trash** – Ray said he has a problem with a neighbor who is leaving trash around outside his house. Ray said he offered to take the trash to the dump but the property owner said no, and the trash is still there. Ray said he has a lot of skunks lately.

The board will ask Moretown’s health officer to look at the property to see if health issues need to be addressed.

**Approval of 9/17/12 minutes:**

John moved; seconded by Michelle, to approve the minutes of the 9/17/12 selectboard meeting as printed. All were in favor.

**Reports & Communication, Mail:**

**Buttolph Petition to Layout Logging Road** – The selectboard received a petition from Edward Buttolph asking them to lay out a temporary logging road across the lands of Linda Vantine as the law allows in Title 19 of Vermont State Statutes.

The town must by law take action on the petition.

Reed moved; seconded by John to contact Paul Gillies and ask that he handle the legal services related to the Petition to lay out a temporary logging road on lands of Linda Vantine dated September 26, 2012. All were in favor.

**Raymond Munn resigned from the State Police Advisory Board** – an email was received from Ray Munn on September 17<sup>th</sup>, indicating that he resigned from the State Policy Advisory Board.

Ray said since he goes away in the winter months he misses several meetings.

The board will ask 1<sup>st</sup> Constable Dave VanDeusen if he is interested in attending the meetings, before looking for someone else to fill the vacancy.

**Speed Limit Reduction Request** – Earlier this year, the selectboard asked AOT to consider reducing the speed limit on US Route 2 between Middlesex and Waterbury from 50 m.p.h. to 40 m.p.h. A letter dated 9/18/12 from Amy Gamble was received notifying the town that the Traffic Operations Section will conduct a traffic engineering study, as required by State Law, and once done will notify the town of their findings.

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**FEMA Flood Mapping – summary of revised maps** – Moretown was notified that the modified Base Flood Elevations (BFE) and revised map panels received by the town in 2009, will become final effective 3/19/13. Attached to the letter were revisions to the mapping since received in 2009.

Clark questioned how to get a definitive flood elevation for a property, and how to go about getting properties out of the floodplain. Clark will contact the Department of Homeland Security (dhs) and ask if someone can come and do an elevation determination of one of the sites being considered for a town office. That way the determination would be free.

**ACCD Community Planning & Revitalization Division** – October 24<sup>th</sup> to respond to issues raised by the Community Recovery Partnership. John plans to attend the meeting.

**Renewal of town insurance with VLCT** - The town is happy with the way VLCT handled the flood claims, and the price was comparable with other insurance companies when the town put the insurance out to bid two years ago.

Reed moved; seconded by Clark to renew the town’s insurance through VLCT/PACIF for 2013.

Discussion – This is for Workers Comp, Liability, Auto, Inland Marine (buildings), etc.

Vote: All were in favor.

**State of Vermont accelerated payments** – The State is offering accelerated payments of State funds for State aid to town highways, current use payments, education, etc., typically released in November and December, to town in an effort to assist with cash flow while dealing with flood repairs. The board signed the request for Accelerated Payments for the State.

**Tim LeBoeuf** – requested permission to put up a tree stand and to hunt with bow and arrow on town/school owned land. The board saw no problem with that since safety zone posters are up. Cheryl will let the Duane Pierson at the school know.

**Announcement: Public Forum** – There will be a public forum on 10/29/12 at the town hall. The topics will be: Village sidewalk improvements; adoption of an investment policy to invest town savings; introduction of the newly adopted Class IV Roads & Trails Policy; and town office site options and associated costs.

**Don LaRocca – Investment Policy** - Don was asked to come in because the board had a couple of questions about the language in the investment policy draft. Discussed followed about the definition of “core value” of funds; how funds could be set up differently that have the flexibility for distribution if needed, or restricted distribution via perpetuity long-term investments; how many board members there should be on the council – no less than 3 and no more than 5; the investment council would make suggestions to the board, but all decisions will be made by the selectboard as a whole; and the investment policy once adopted can always be revised. The draft will be introduced to the public at a forum on 10/29/12.

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**Landfill expansion neighborhood group presentation – Martha Douglass was spokesperson –**

Clark wanted to make it known that he was invited to a Route 2 neighborhood party last week and answered a couple of general questions.

Martha said the neighbors around the proposed MLI expansion for cell IV, want to share their perspective on the expansion proposal, and provided each board member with presentation packets. Martha continued with a presentation of the packet, which is available for public view at the Moretown town offices during regular business hours. The board would like time to review the packets in their entirety and invited the group to come back in 2 – 4 weeks.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**PPL Gas-To-Energy proposal to the Public Service Board** – PPL requested that the town write a letter of support to add a third engine to the gas-to-energy facility at the Moretown Landfill.

Tom Martin spoke with DRB Chairman John Riley to be sure any support the town submitted, would not have an impact on an application if submitted to the DRB for review. John assured Tom that because of changes in Vermont Law, any application from PPL would be reviewed by the Vermont Public Service Board, not the DRB.

Tom Badowski gave a brief overview of PPL’s project, which by adding the third engine would increase the currently wattage supplying homes by 1/3. Tom B. went on to explain that PPL will only install a third engine if Cell IV is approved, and the only downside to the project that he can see, would be if there is no third engine the flare will continue to burn because there would be no way to capture the gas.

Clark moved; seconded by John that the town write a letter of support for the PPL Gas-To-Energy project for a third engine to the Vermont Public Service Board, and authorized Tom Martin to sign the letter when ready. All were in favor.

**Blodgett’s appeal of the selectboard’s decision on location of Blodgett Trail** - The town has requested via the court that all documents, including photographs in Blodgett’s possession relating to the location of town trail #49, be produced, and any report from a professional surveyor or engineer hired by Blodgett to serve as an expert witness in this matter, as well as any correspondence between the two, be submitted as evidence.

**Town office committee news** – Clark reported that the committee met with the consultant hired by the town, to update him on any new issues that he needs to include in his estimates for town office sites. Apparently the playground needs to be taken apart so the town could use that area for a town office, but the site may be in the 500-year flood plain. To be sure, an elevation determination will be done.

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Other sites include the area near the MLI garden (in the yard of the temporary town office), and remodeling the MLI office to add a vault, then rent the building long-term. The next town office committee meeting will be 10/18/12.

**Phantom Roads in Moretown** - Dean Moulton hasn't passed along any information to the board yet about phantom roads, but he will do a 15 minutes presentation on 10/15.

**Goals & Expectations of the Road Department** – Cheryl will do a survey of what local towns crews are paid and their benefits.

**Buy out of Buska property** – Moretown was asked to consider buying the Buska property through a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). There was discussion about not having the time to thoroughly investigate the HMGP to be sure there would be no cost to Moretown; and about being awarded a Federal grant before only to be told later that portions of the project didn't qualify. Past experience makes the selectboard hesitant to move forward with the buyout without having enough time to thoroughly study the HMGP regulations. Therefore, since a Letter of Intent to apply for the HMGP is due next week, the town will not be applying for the grant to buy-out the Buska property.

**Bridge #41 project status** – FEMA is still reviewing Moretown's request to consider the replacement of bridge #41 as an "Improved Project", so the project is on hold. There was discussion about the project cost to the town if FEMA doesn't approve it as an improved project, and about asking for voter approval for the town share of the project. Rental of the temporary bridge is \$6,000 per month, but FEMA agreed to cover those costs.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Snowplow bids opened** – and the results were as follows:

<b>Hallstrom Excavating</b> , Louis Hallstrom	<b>Group II</b>	Yearly not to exceed plowing and sanding	<b>\$5,928</b>
<b>Duane Howes</b>	<b>Group 1</b>	Yearly not to exceed plowing and sanding	<b>\$2,500</b>

Reed will talk with Martin about tonight's bids, and to see if he has any applications for temporary help. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting. There were no bids for Group III.

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**Moretown’s Hazard Mitigation Plan update/adoption** – prepared by the selectboard and CVRPC was approved.

Tom moved; seconded by Michelle, to adopt Moretown’s Hazard Mitigation Plan as prepared. All were in favor.

**Agency of Transportation (AOT) Maintenance Agreement** - AOT plans to improve the alignment at the access to River Road, Henning Road, and Turner Road from Route 100B and wanted the town to agree to continue maintenance of the intersections.

The Agreement was approved.

There were no invoices or warrants submitted for approval tonight.

Tom moved; John seconded, to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. All were in favor.