

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

Draft – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 4/15/13 Selectboard meeting

Board members present were: Tom Martin, Reed Korrow, Rae Washburn, Michelle Beard, John Hoogenboom

Guests included: Dean Moulton, Lisa Ransom & Scott Baughman, Linda & David Butsch, Deborah Feldman, Clark Amadon, Cheryl Brown as board assistant

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

Public Comment:

Dean Moulton – requested that the Grand List be put on the website.

Approval of Minutes:

4/1/13 – Reed moved; seconded by Michelle to approve the minutes of 4/1/13 as written. All were in favor.

Reports & Communication, Announcements:

Bridge reports – Every two years the State bridge team inspects town-owned bridges and then gives the towns a report of their findings. The board reviewed the report. Martin was given a copy of the report earlier this week.

Shane Grace – Tom reported a call from Shane that he had been contacted about possible mistreatment of horses. Shane indicated that he told the person that he wasn't the person to contact. Shane was later contacted by a "rescue" organization, who asked him if he would accompany him to the farm to look at the condition of the horses. Shane agreed to go. Nothing became of the visit.

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The board thinks going forward any such complaints should be directed to the State Police, not the animal control officer.

Tom Douglass – Tom Martin reported receiving a call from Tom Douglass a week or so ago, asking if the selectboard would pursue keeping the landfill open for Moretown residents until 4/15/13.

DRB reappointments – Written requests to be reappointed to the DRB for another term were received from; Tom Badowski, Jim O’Neill and Erick Titrud.

Tom moved; John seconded, to reappoint Tom Badowski, Jim O’Neill and Erick Titrud to a three-year term to the Moretown Development Review Board. All were in favor.

Timberline Events – Relay Race – The Green Mountain Relay race scheduled for this year has been cancelled due to lack of registrations.

Portable toilets at the Moretown School – Duane Pierson asked if the selectboard would place two portable toilets at the school near ball field from May - August.

After discussion that there have been port-o-lets at the school in the past and would surely be needed for the 250th Birthday of Moretown celebration planned in May, the board agreed to put one toilet at the school and it would be paid for from the Recreation Fund, since that is where donations from use of the field are deposited.

Tom moved; seconded by Michelle to pay for putting one portable toilet at the Moretown Elementary School for a three month period. All were in favor.

Moretown Landfill 90 day Stay – Tom reported that Mike DiMaggio informed him that the State Environmental Court has granted MLI an extension to stay in operation for three more months. It is unclear at this time if the landfill will reopen.

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OLD BUSINESS:

250th Birthday of Moretown Celebration – Rae gave an overview of festivities scheduled from May 23rd – May 26th being planned by the Historical Society. Anyone interested in volunteering to help out may contact Denise Gabaree, Sarah Fulton, Mary Blake or Rae Washburn. The schedule of events will be posted on the moretownvt.org website once finalized.

Tipping fee / landfill windfall expectations – Tom moved to enter into executive session at 6:15 p.m. to discuss the minimum amount due in the Host Town Agreement contract, whereby premature public knowledge would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. John seconded. All were in favor.

Tom moved to come out of executive session at 6:35 p.m. John seconded. No action was taken.

Town hall elevator repair/ ramp – Becky provided a quote from Bob Weber of Accessibility Systems to provide a replacement door, door lock, and call station, for \$3,177.

The board determined that the elevator needs to be operated at least once per week to keep the mechanisms working, in hopes that it would mean less repairs and a more dependable elevator. The board also needs to determine how many years Bob Weber thinks the elevator might last. The elevator certainly needs to be serviceable before the celebration activities begin. The elevator is certainly the most appealing aesthetically.

John moved to authorize Tom to move forward to make the repairs to the elevator, provided that after talking with Bob Weber he feels comfortable repairing the unit is the best way to go financially and reliability wise versus building a ramp. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

More old business later –

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Maclay Architects contract – Clark Amadon from the town office committee -

Clark provided an outline prepared by Bill Gallup of Maclay Architects, breaking down the town office space from the existing office to what is being proposed for the new office. Other discussion included: McCain Consulting will be looking at the two field sites for septic suitability; Most likely there will need to be mitigation measures to Doctor's Brook, such as rip rap. They will talk with ANR about that; There will be a public forum on 6/20/13; There was no contract available for the board to sign; Clark is working on a Community Block Grant that might help with project costs.

Linda Butsch asked for time to talk with the selectboard about putting up a fence on their property that would encroach on the town rights of way. Linda provided a road maintenance permit application and a letter from Martin Cameron which stated the location of the proposed fence would not hinder maintenance of the town road.

Deborah said residential fences are exempt from needing a permit, but the Zoning Regulations state they need to be out of the town's right of way in order to be exempt. Because the house was built so close to the Moretown Mountain Road, the fence would be in the town's right of way. Deborah feels the selectboard governs town roads and therefore any permission granted tonight should be in the zoning file for future reference, and she would support an exemption if the board approves one.

There was discussion that the Moretown Mountain Road is a class II road; four rods wide; and therefore the right of way would be about 33' from the center of the road.

Rae said by the looks of it, one side of the fence would be 7.5 feet into the right of way, and that the board had made someone move their foundation because they built it in the right of way. He doesn't want to set precedence here.

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Dean said this is a reasonable request that will not hinder maintenance of the road, and a fence is not a permanent fixture.

Deborah would like to see Martin's letter in the zoning file and also a letter from the Butsch's stating that if at a later date the fence obstructs road maintenance it will come down.

Reed moved to approve the Road Maintenance Permit as presented tonight, with the condition that the Butsch's write a letter that if the fence obstructs road maintenance, it will come down. Tom seconded. All were in favor.

More old business:

Town hall floor refinishing – Two bids were received to refinish the down hall (upstairs) wood floor; one from Tom McLaughlin for \$1,800 which would provide 2 coats of finish; and one from Pat McGinley for \$2,000 which would provide 3 coats of finish. There was discussion about getting the floors refinished in time for the May celebration.

John moved to hire Pat McGinley to screen and recoat the town hall floor for a total price of \$2,000, of which \$1,000 will be paid up front and the remaining \$1,000 will be paid once John has inspected the work. Michelle seconded.

Discussion: The floor would need to be done prior to 5/17 to allow it time to set before the celebration, or wait to do the work after the celebration. All were in favor.

Bridge #41 project update – The temporary bridge has been stabilized. Austin has taken responsibility for the additional costs. A time extension from the July 1st deadline has been requested, that will allow additional time to complete closeout of the project. The extension will have no impact on Austin's deadline to complete the project by 6/7/13.

Safe Routes to School – Michelle reported that the Safe Routes to School Committee (SRS) is looking to prioritize the phases of the village sidewalk restructuring and/or repair.

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Dara plans to put a survey out as to what phase people would like to see happen – repair the existing sidewalk, or build a new network. Once determined, Dara will be applying for a grant. SRS would like to make the village a “Central Designation”, which would open up other grant opportunities. Michelle will have more to report at the next meeting.

Vacancies in offices – One town auditor and two listers are needed to fill vacancies in office. Parties interested in being appointed to fill a vacancy until 2014 town meeting should write a letter to the selectboard. To learn more about what the auditor and lister duties are, email the selectboard at mselectboard@moretownvt.net

New Business:

Highway work – Reed reported that Martin will attend the May 6th selectboard meeting to talk about summer’s work.

Rae asked if there were plans to repair the village hill. The board knew of no plans, but perhaps Martin can work on a repair plan and apply for a Vtrans grant next spring. Vtrans grants are due by 4/15/14.

Tax Anticipation Note – Because of the lack in tipping fees deposited into the general fund and property tax revenue isn’t due until November, the town will need to get a tax anticipation loan to pay for budgeted expenses. The selectboard plans to have a town meeting article next year asking the voters permission to use up to a certain amount of the savings reserve, either by loan or to spend, rather than borrow money from a bank in anticipation of receiving tax revenue.

Tom moved to authorize the Treasurer to get a tax anticipation loan with the Merchants Bank for \$500,000 with an interest rate of 1.65%; John seconded. All were in favor.

Rae moved to allow Tom to sign the loan agreement with Merchants Bank to move forward with a \$500,000 note; John seconded. All were in favor.

A note will be signed later once it is received from the bank.

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Meeting with the schoolboard – The selectboard asked the schoolboard if they would agree to have a joint meeting to talk about the financial impacts to the town as a whole from the landfill closing. The schoolboard said yes and set a date of July 1st, but all selectboard members aren't available on the 1st so Cheryl will see if the schoolboard can meet on a different night.

Review invoices and approve warrants – Warrant #'s 20, 21, & 22 approved.

Overload permits and a liquor license permit were approved.

Michelle moved to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.; Tom seconded. All were in favor.