

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

**Draft** – Unapproved minutes of the 9/3/13 selectboard meeting

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

Guests included: Martha Douglass, Lisa Ransom & Scott Baughman, Duane Pierson, Becky Ciampi, Carl Wimble, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

**Public Comment:**

**Martha Douglass** – re: letter to MLI about cameras – Martha asked the board if they have had a reply from MLI about the letter that they sent in May, regarding the cameras? The answer was no.

Later in the evening the board decided to send MLI/Advanced Disposal another letter, asking them why they didn't respond to their May 28, 2013 letter. It was noted that not responding to a letter from the selectboard is unacceptable.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**8/5/13** – Tom moved; Rae seconded, to approve the minutes of 8/5/13 as written. Rae, Reed and Tom were in favor. Michelle and John abstained as they were absent for all or part of the meeting. Motion passed by majority.

**8/19/13** – John moved; Michelle seconded, to approve the minutes of 8/19/13 as written. Tom abstained as he was absent for the meeting.

**8/23/13** – Approval of the 8/23/13 minutes was tabled.

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## **Reports & Communication, Mail:**

**Elevator repairs – Chad Dewyea of Access Mobility provided quotes** to repair the elevator in the town hall, following a list deficiencies provided by Vt. Elevator Inspection, that need to be addressed before the lift can be used. The quote for \$9,100.00 was chosen. The town’s insurance will pay part of the invoice that relates to flood repairs.

Chad indicated on 8/28/13 when he was told to proceed with the repairs that the work should be done in a couple of weeks. Becky will keep in contact with Chad for progress reports. Joe Gabaree will also, as he needs to finish the carpentry work inside the shaft once Chad is done with his repairs.

Rae asked if town meeting was going to be at the town hall.

Discussion followed about the unreliability of the elevator, being the reason why town meetings have been at the school lately.

Reed wondered if it would do any good if the road crew ran the elevator from time to time. The board hopes these new repairs by a new repair person will take care of that problem.

The \$3,177 invoice from Accessibility Systems for a new door for the elevator will not be paid until the new repair person has finished with his repairs and the elevator is operational. They want to be sure the new door is needed.

**Old Route 100B – Art Hendrickson** has concerns about a dip in the road near the “Porter” house. He said it appears the road has collapsed and could make the area dangerous for motorcycles etc. Art said brush has also grown over the road in areas.

Cheryl let Martin know of Art’s concerns. Reed will follow up with Martin.

**New town office project –** Title search work needs to be done to define ownership of the “playground site” that will be the home of a new town office, in case any legal paperwork is needed between the town and school.

Tom moved; Rae seconded, to allow Cheryl to contact Paul Gillies to do the title search and deed work for the “playground” area for a new town office.

Discussion followed that Paul did some title search work shortly after Irene, and hopefully his prior work will save in legal costs for this project. Vote: All were in favor.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Plowing of the school yard** – Duane Pierson said last October during the discussion about the town plowing the school parking lot, he said he would come back in this year to revisit the town plowing the lot again, but it appears the selectboard have decided not to plow the parking lot this year. Duane offered to answer any questions the board might have.

John said the issue was that last year, Washington West Supervisory Union budgeted for plowing, but the town did the plowing and salting at no cost to the school, so the board assumed it was budgeted again this year.

Duane said Michelle Baker at WWSU did not bid the plowing this year, and so the Moretown Schoolboard did not budget for the plowing this year.

Tom explained that the town will not be snowplowing class 4 roads this year, and so the town will not have to hire an extra temporary person most likely. That extra person would have plowed the school yard.

Duane asked that the plowing be revisited when the new town office is built and the town and school once again share the parking lot. Agreed.

**Mowing of the school property** – Duane said the mowing of late has been exceptional since the recent changes have been made, and he thanked the selectboard for making the changes.

Meriden Nelson is mowing and Martin Cameron is trimming.

Reed will let them know about the compliment.

**Costs for the Mountain Road Resurfacing Project** – The final cost of the project to resurface a portion of the Moretown Mountain Road was \$119,642. Moretown received an \$80,000 grant from VTrans, and \$10,000 was budgeted leaving a balance of \$29,642. The selectboard approved that Martin proceed with the project expecting about a \$20,000 difference between the grant and project cost, and compensated by adding nearly \$18,000 to the highway revenue from a structures grant received, to help offset the difference. Martin is aware he will need to find the remainder from within his highway budget.

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**Results from the survey about what to do with the old town office**

**building** - There were two replies to the online survey. Both suggestions were to use the old town office building for the town library.

There was discussion about the selectboard still not knowing whether or not the school water and septic would support a third party.

Duane thinks John Schmeltzer investigated that idea a few years ago when one of the churches asked if it would be possible to be added to the systems, and John S. found there was enough capacity for the town office and the school, but nothing else.

Michelle wondered if the library paid to add ample space onto the new town office for a library and perhaps room to display historic items (such as the large screen and quits currently at the town hall, if it would be possible to have it in the new building.

There was general discussion about possibly having a “holding tank” for septic at the old town office site, such as the fire station and town garage have.

Rae thought it was “late in the game” to think about changing the design of the new town office, and he also wondered why the library would consider moving into the old town office building because it lays in the floodplain.

Duane will find out for sure what the school’s well and septic capacity is and if it could support having a library added to it. Duane will talk with Clark Amadon about it too.

Tom said until we find out more details, the board will hold off making a decision about what will happen with the old building.

**Class IV Road committee meeting** – John reported that the class IV road committee will meet on Monday, 9/9/13 at 5:30 at the Moretown Town Hall.

**Becky Ciampi re: town hall business** – Becky reported:

- She met with Leah Steward, Coordinator at People’s Health & Wellness, regarding rental of the town hall for a fundraiser scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Leah asked if the elevator would be working for the fundraiser. The selectboard fully expects the elevator to be working by then.

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- Is BYOB allowed at the town hall? The board said no alcohol is allowed per the suggestion of the town’s insurance, unless it is catered by a licensed distributor. Then any liability falls on the caterer, not the town.
- The fans in the kitchen aren’t working, and items on the insurance “risk” list need to be fixed. Becky asked permission to hire an electrician. The board approved, but suggested Becky contact Martin because his insurance list also required hiring an electrician, and perhaps they could coordinate so that the work gets done at the same time.
- The water leak in the kitchen is coming from inside the building. Becky will call local plumbers. She will be sure that if the repair is flood related, that the invoice is so noted so it can be directed to the town’s insurance.
- The town hall is “booked” in October, and there are several rentals for the rest of the year.
- The fire department is having a pig roast this Saturday, 9/7 at 5:00 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Herring Brook Road waterbars** – Bob Grace advised the town on the morning of 8/26/13, that waterbars had been put in on the Herring Brook Road, to the extent that he can’t get to his land. After a phone conversation with Jeff Langmaid of Fountains Forestry, the town was advised of a 10 a.m. meeting at the site of one of the waterbars near Woodard’s camp. Martin and Rae attended.

Rae suggested that a letter be written to Fountains Forestry regarding this problem, for the file.

John noted that anytime work is done within a town right-of-way, Fountains Forestry knows they must contact the town first. They have been warned and warned about that, perhaps they should be fined.

The decision was to send Andy Carlo a letter and include in the letter an invitation to come in and meet with the board.

**Health Insurance – Vermont Health Connect** – The plan pricing information provided by VLCT at the last meeting, are solid numbers according to John H. The board plans to make a decision at their 9/16/13 meeting, which carrier (Blue Cross/Blue Shield or MVH) the town will choose to provide health insurance from.

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Discussion followed that between now and the next meeting, board members will study the information from VLCT, compare those costs to last year's budget numbers, and think about how much the town should contribute to the employee's health care costs.

The board decided to hold a special meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup> to have employees come and meet with the board to learn about VHC, ask questions, give comments, and to hear what the town will contribute toward their health insurance in 2014.

**TS Irene results in abatements carried over to 2012 taxes** – Cherilyn brought it to Tom's attention that there may be credits needed from the 2011 flood abatements. After the board reviewed the wording in the 2011 flood abatements letter, they considered that credits toward this year's tax bill will be made to the Marvin Kingsbury's and Barbara Buska's property. Both of which were destroyed by TS Irene and later condemned by the town.

Reed moved; John seconded to apply the credits related to the 2011 abatements, toward this year's tax bill for Marvin Kingsbury (approx. \$851) and Barbara Buska (approx. \$394). All were in favor.

**Litigation of tipping fee payment request by the Town to MLI/Advanced Disposal –**

Tom moved; Reed seconded to enter into executive session at 7:15 p.m. to discuss the ongoing litigation against MLI/Advanced Disposal, where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the town at a disadvantage. All were in favor. The board assistant was invited to stay for the discussion.

Tom moved; Rae seconded to exit executive session at 7:33 p.m. All were in favor.

Result of the executive session:

John moved; Reed seconded to authorize Tom Martin and Michelle Beard, and any other board member who finds they can attend once an appointment has been made, to meet with the town's attorney at his office to discuss the tipping fee litigation on behalf of the town. All were in favor.

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Tom announced that there has been no communication or news regarding the tipping fee payment to the town by MLI since the last meeting. That is why the board wants to meet directly with our attorney.

**Road crew hours** – The road crew should be back to a five day work week. Reed will check on that.

**Review invoices and other documents for signature –**

**Better Back Road Grant** – Martin applied for and received a \$4,000 grant to hire an engineer to study the Mountain Road village hill base, and provide design work.

There was discussion that \$4,000 probably won't be enough to cover the engineering costs, and the Mountain Road job expenses have already tightened up the highway budget. The board wants the opportunity to look at the bids from the engineers, prior to one being hired. Reed will talk with Martin.

Tom signed the grant agreement.

Warrant # 47, 48 and 49 were approved as submitted.

Tom moved; Reed seconded to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. All were in favor.