

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

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 11/4/13 selectboard meeting minutes

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

Guests included: Martha and Tom Douglass, Sandra and Clayton Wetzel, Scott Baughman, Cheryl Brown as board assistant

Public Comment period:

Clayton Wetzel – Clayton asked the selectboard is will to sponsor then for a Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMGP) to raise their home out of the floodplain. Clayton found out about the grant on 11/1 and applications are due on 11/18. There would be no out of pocket to the town, the town would simply be the sub-Grantee sponsor for the FEMA grant (the State is the Grantee). With this project, and by working with the zoning administrator, the Wetzel's will correct floodplain issues and thereby bring the building back into compliance.

Tom moved to sponsor Clayton and Sandra Wetzel's application under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, with no cost to the Town. Reed seconded.

Discussion followed that the Wetzel's will write the town a letter agreeing to pay the 25% share of the grant and that they will follow the grant guidelines. All were in favor. Clayton will prepare the grant application.

Martha Douglass – Martha asked if the landfill had been contacted about their cameras yet. John and Rae still plan to meet with Bill Kernan.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 11/4/13 selectboard meeting

Approval of Minutes:

10/21/13 – Rae moved; John seconded to approve the minutes of 10/21/13 as written. All were in favor.

10/29/13 – John moved; Tom seconded to approve the minutes of 10/29/13 as written. All were in favor.

Reports & Communication, Announcements –

Line of Credit for flood expenditures – The note for the line of credit balance is due on November 19th. After talking with Merchants Bank earlier today, the town can extend the line of credit principle for six months at the same rate of interest (1.71%). The town should have received FEMA reimbursement for the bridge by that time.

The decision was to make a payment of \$30,000 now from funds reserved in the Bridge & Culvert Fund, and the interest accrued to date, which will leave a principle balance of about the same amount that is due from FEMA. Paperwork for the extension will be ready for board signatures at their next meeting.

Blodgett appeal of the 8/20/12 board decision of the location of trail #49 - Notice was received from Gillies that there will be a conference hearing on November 20th at Superior Court in Montpelier. John plans to attend. There was discussion that the board wants to see any plans decided on before signing off on any relocation of a trail; and there is a legal process that would need to be done to change the location of the trail, which is quite costly. Negotiations should be made so that the town does not absorb the legal costs.

Email from Craig Eilers – that he would like to see the Craig Ciampi property tax delinquency solved via a deduction in payment to Ciampi's invoice for flood work he did to the town hall. Craig E. stated that the Delinquent Tax Collection Policy addresses the problem of having delinquent property taxes and working for the town.

Tom said he has been unable to reach Ciampi to talk with him about deducting the delinquent amount from his invoice.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 11/4/13 selectboard meeting

Rae doesn't see how we can justify deducting payment from Ciampi's invoice without his approval. The policy was not in effect when Ciampi was awarded the work.

Craig Eilers and Tom will continue to try and get in touch with Ciampi.

Vermont Health Connect – An email from Kelley Avery at VLCT indicates that Moretown may opt to extend the existing health coverage through 3/31/13. There are very few details at this time about costs associated with an extension.

Moretown General Store tobacco products violation – The town was copied on a violation issued by the State of Vermont to Bruce & Robert Jolley (the Moretown General Store), for the unlawful sale of cigarettes to a minor on 10/15/13.

Wimble subdivision road name request – A request was made by Carl Wimble to name the road in the Robert Wimble subdivision Jamie's Way. Shane Grace already approved the name for E911 purposes.

John moved; Tom seconded to approve that the private road in the Robert Wimble subdivision be named Jamie's Way. All were in favor.

Announcements:

Letter to Barb Schwendtner – A letter was drafted for the board to approve tonight that will be sent to Barb Schwendtner of ANR, making her aware of a situation that happened between a Moretown employee, JB Weir, and Grow Compost which the board believes was the result of an odor complaint called into Barb by JB. The letter drafted was reviewed by the board members, and after providing a copy of the draft to the public present tonight, they were able to give comments.

Scott Baughman admitted that during the conversation with JB, Lisa (Ransom) did mention contacting their attorney but the intent was not to threaten JB, and he apologizes if they came across like that. Scott went on say how he remembered a conversation that day with JB about landfill odors and how he (JB) would handle them, and what his (JB) reaction was.

Martha had concerns about JB's reaction as Scott portrayed it being.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 11/4/13 selectboard meeting

Cheryl suggested that JB is still learning the history about the landfill odor problems and perhaps his reaction was that he simply hadn't thought about it because there haven't been landfill odor problems he has had to deal with since he has been the zoning administrator.

There was discussion amongst the board whether or not JB called in the odor complaint as Moretown's Zoning Administrator, and whether or not when JB told the Selectboard about the incident on 10/21 he did so as an employee or a private citizen. The majority of the board thought it didn't matter either way, and decided to sign the letter that will be mailed to Barb.

Reed moved to approve the letter to Barb Schwendtner as drafted. Tom seconded. Tom, Reed and John were in favor. Rae opposed. Motion passed. The letter was signed later and will be forwarded directly to Barb.

Martin Cameron – open bids for design of erosion repair on the village hill - The three bids received were as follows:

- Bannon Engineering - \$9,500
- Weston & Sampson Engineering - \$8,900
- DuBois & King Inc. - \$10,500

The bids were reviewed by the board. Martin will get together with Tom Anderson from VTrans to review them further before awarding any of the bids.

Mad River Valley Planning District (MRVPD) presentation – Bob Ackland, Jared Cadwell and Joshua Swartz are here tonight to share history and to educate the board about what MRVPD can do for Moretown, in hopes Moretown will join the District. Points of interest included:

- ✓ MRVPD was started in 1985 by the Towns of Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren.
- ✓ The purpose of the Planning District is to carry out a program of planning for the future of the Mad River Valley Town's involved in the District.
- ✓ Values to Town who are part of the District include: funding and grant opportunities; professional planning help; awareness; disaster recovery; studies of regulations, policies; economic development and resources; and partnership with other towns.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 11/4/13 selectboard meeting

- ✓ Sugarbush contributes to the MRVPD.
- ✓ Dues to join would be about \$24,000. The process would require approval from Moretown’s voters, and the voters from the Town’s in the District.
- ✓ Each town would have one selectboard member and one planning commissioner on the committee.
- ✓ MRVPD would ask Moretown what you want, then plan the process to achieve the goal.

The selectboard thanked the gentlemen from the MRVPD Steering Committee for attending tonight and for the great presentation, and told them the Board will discuss joining MRVPD during their budgeting process.

OLD BUSINESS:

11/5/13 vote for the new town office – Tom gave a brief overview of the project and encouraged people to support the project.

Flags in the village – The board is waiting for Danny McHugh to get back to them about how many flags in the village need to be purchased, so they can budget accordingly.

Capital budgeting/Investments for 2014 – John attended a VLCT conference and thinks they have some really good information that will help financially. There was discussion that with the landfill closure, this may be the best time to invest so we get a maximum return on our savings to have the additional revenue toward taxes.

Martha wondered about lending the town’s savings reserves to businesses such as Waterbury does, for community development projects.

Cheryl will contact Don LaRocca and see if he would be willing to help out again with the capital budgeting update and an investment plan.

2014 budget – Tom reported that departments have until November 14th to get their requests for the 2014 budget to the board. The board will then review the requests at their 11/18 meeting.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 11/4/13 selectboard meeting

Schoolboard will be attending the 12/2/13 meeting – to talk about the new town office project and how it affects moving the playground. Also at that meeting the plan is for the school directors to sign a Quitclaim Deed and a Resolution prepared by the Town’s attorney. The paperwork will “clean up” any ownership questions relating to the “playground” site where the town office will be built, and will also clear up any liability concerns the school had previously mentioned to Clark.

They will also talk about budgeting.

Tipping fee litigation status – Tom moved to enter into executive session at 8:15 p.m. John seconded. All were in favor. The board assistant was invited to stay for the discussion.

Tom moved to come out of executive session at 8:45 p.m. Reed seconded. All were in favor.

Warrant # 59 and # 60 were approved as submitted.

Tom moved to adjourn at 8:55. Reed seconded. All were in favor.