

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

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 11/18/13 selectboard meeting

Board members present were: Tom Martin, Reed Korrow, Michelle Beard, John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn arrived at 6:20

Guests included: Martha Douglass, Duane Pierson, Clark Amadon, Benjamin Green P. E. for Weston & Sampson, Lisa Ransom, Scott Baughman, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Martha Douglass – spoke about talking with Waterbury about their lending for community projects. She said grant funds (through a revolving type loan fund) are lent for projects that might not otherwise be done because a bank might not find them fundable.

The board will talk more about investment options at a special meeting to be held on Monday, 11/25.

Lisa Ransom – indicated that the Waterbury Good Neighbor Fund is actually doing the same thing.

Duane Pierson – came in tonight to tell the board that by working with students and collaborating with neighbors, they would like the new playground in the area behind the baseball diamond, rather than on the opposite side of the school. Duane indicated that they have a \$2,000 grant and hopefully \$25,000 from the town's portion of the Children's Fund for the new playground. Duane thinks this new location is better. Because of the topography more school activities can take place. The path leading to the playground will be snowblowed by the school. There will be a presentation given by MES students to further describing the plan. The new playground would continue to be on town owned land.

The board likes the idea of having the playground where Duane described it tonight, and look forward to the presentation.

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Clark Amadon – wanted to give a brief progress report about the town office project.

- The voters supported building a new town office on the current playground site. Although the voting turnout was low, it is not out of the ordinary.
- The next phase is Maclay will send a contract for Phase II of his bid, which will include designing the building.
- There was discussion about hiring a clerk of the work to oversee the project once the design plans have been settled on, but we need help for the wording for the request for proposal (rfp). The board agreed that Clark can ask Bill Maclay to help with the rfp wording. Cheryl will forward Bill the wording used for the clerk of the works tasks for the bridge project, which might be used as a guide for this rfp. Rae will look over the rfp once drafted.
- Clark will attend a workshop relating to what an environmental review should include for the block grant. McCain Consulting should have a draft of the environmental review ready later this week.
- The town office committee could review the proposals for the building design and arrange for another public meeting.
- There is more design information on the moretownvt.org website.
- The schoolboard should sign a Quitclaim Deed and Resolution at the 12/2 selectboard meeting, that will clarify that the town does in fact own the parcel that the town office will be built on. Wording will be added so that having the new playground on the parcel for an extended amount of time will in no way create an adverse possession situation with the school.

The board thanked Clark for all of his, and the town office committee's help.

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Approval of Minutes:

11/4/13 – John moved and Reed seconded, to approve the minutes of 11/4/13 as written. John, Tom, Reed and Rae were in favor. Michelle abstained as she was absent for the meeting.

Reports & Communication, Announcements:

Central Vermont Humane Society (CVHS) – The contract with CVHS expires as of December 31st. The 2014 contract is structured so that if used, the town is charged a certain fee per stray animal, versus a yearly fee plus \$50 per stray.

Cheryl spoke with Shane Grace, Moretown’s Animal Control Officer, who indicated that since no annual fee is charged it would be handy to have a 24/hr. drop off if for some reason Roy Hadden’s shelter is unavailable.

Reed moved and Michelle seconded, to sign the contract with Central Vermont Humane Society for 2014. All were in favor. Tom signed the agreement.

HMGP for acquisition of the town office – The town was awarded a \$125,660 grant for acquisition and demolition of the old town office building. The grant reflects 75% of the value of the building and estimated costs to demolish the building (\$167,547). There was discussion that perhaps the road crew could tear down the building.

Rae said before the building can be torn down, an asbestos test must be done. This test would not be paid for via the grant.

Michelle wondered if we could use free labor from the Dept. of Labor to help tear down the building.

No work can be done before the sub-grant agreement is signed and returned to Emergency Management.

Washington County Sheriff’s Department – Annual report 7/1/12-6/30/13. The report in full will be available at town meeting.

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Cell towers – JB reported to the selectboard (via email) that there are applications forthcoming from AT&T, for two cell towers to be installed in Moretown. The applications will go before the Development Review Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

Village hill erosion repair plan – Benjamin Green from Weston & Sampson, one of the engineers who responded to the engineering bid to prepare a repair plan, came in tonight after talking with Martin about his (Martin's) meeting with VTrans, to see if the board had technical questions he could answer.

Martin, John and Rae met with State personnel about the erosion problem on the village hill, and they thought the problem might be more of a base issue, than an erosion issue, and suggested that borings be done.

Discussion followed:

- Ben agreed with the State that bore testing would be the most effective way to determine what repairs are needed;
- Whether or not to spend the money on bore tests or dig up a soil sample of the base in the problem areas and take it to the state for analysis;
- The deeper the boring, the better the analysis would be;
- Because all engineers' bids did not include bore tests, should they go out for re-bid;
- Weston & Sampson's submitted low bid of \$8,900;
- Any repair now would be a short-term fix;
- The long-term solution would be to buy the Cutler house and restructure the intersection, which would include the area in question now, but would the state help pay for the project via a grant that would include help with acquisition costs;
- Nothing will be done until after Martin meets with the selectboard on 11/25, to talk about the options and associated costs.

Buttolph vs Vantine Status hearing 11/20/13 – for which the town has an interest due to the fact that Buttolph appealed the selectboard's decision to deny Buttolph's petition to layout a logging road across lands owned by Vantine.

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Craig Ciampi Construction \$2,100 invoice – for flood related repairs that he did to the town hall.

Tom said he spoke directly with Craig who said it was alright to deduct the amount for the 2012 delinquent taxes that he owes from the payment.

The decision was that it is ok to pay Ciampi's invoice, less the delinquent tax amount.

Blodgett trail appeal of trail #49 location – Mediation was on August 5th. There has been no word from Paul Gillies that Blodgett has corresponded. Cheryl will contact Paul.

Host Town Agreement for cell IV – Michelle said she has all of the notes from the host committee meetings (although most were from executive session deliberations), so once MLI has submitted an application to ANR for a fourth cell and the selectboard begins to work on a host agreement, she has the notes for them to refer to.

Vermont Health Connect – The board wants to keep in close contact with Craig Eilers to be sure employees continue to have health insurance whether through VHC or we continue with BC/BS. Cheryl will contact Craig for an update.

Tipping fee litigation – will be later in the meeting.

New Business:

11/25/13 special meeting – The board will have a special meeting on 11/25/13 to meet with Don LaRocca re: investments and updating the capital budget. Reed will ask Martin Cameron to attend also to talk about the village hill repairs and about the highway budget.

2014 budget work – Departments have submitted their budget requests. The board will review them before the next meeting. The selectboard will meet to work in length on the town budget on 12/2, 12/9 & 12/16. There was a brief discussion that department heads cannot alter or overspend a line item in their budget without first having the permission of the selectboard.

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2014 Town Meeting articles – Reed reported that Martin wants to have a town meeting article asking voters to buy a new dump truck.

Discussion included:

- The Capital Budget Plan doesn't budget for purchasing a new highway truck until 2015, but repair costs to the 2007 may overrule moving the purchase to 2014 and getting rid of the 2007 truck;
- Whether or not to buy a single axle truck or a tandem axle truck;
- Because of the cost to operate our trucks versus the prices we have been getting to haul road materials, it may be better to continue hiring trucks to haul it;
- What make of truck to buy;
- The board will discuss whether or not to buy a truck after talking with Martin when he comes in on 11/25.

More old business:

Camera's on Moretown Landfill property – Rae and John met with Landfill Manager Bill Kernan about the cameras placed on MLI property that face toward the Grow Compost property. Rae and John reported that basically, it was a corporate decision to install the cameras and they will not be coming down.

Lisa stated that she is very uncomfortable that corporate has pictures of her children, and added that she appreciates that the board tried to address the issue directly with MLI.

Tipping fee litigation status – Tom moved and Reed seconded, to enter into executive session at 7:33 p.m. to discuss the ongoing tipping fee litigation, whereby premature public knowledge would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. All were in favor.

Tom moved and John seconded to come out of executive session at 8:15 p.m. All were in favor. No action was taken as the result.

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Documents for approval –

Line of credit with the Merchants Bank for flood repairs –

Payoff on the line of credit note was due this week, but about \$344,000 is still due from FEMA for reimbursement of expenses related to the bridge replacement. A six month extension to pay the line of credit was signed. This will allow for FEMA reimbursements related to the borrowing to come in before having to pay back the loan.

Invoices were reviewed. Warrants # 61 and 62 were approved as submitted.

John moved and Rae seconded, to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. All were in favor.

