

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

Draft – Unapproved minutes of the 1/6/14 selectboard meeting

Board members present: Michelle Beard, Rae Washburn, Reed Korrow and John Hoogenboom

Guests included: Jay Pilliod, Martha & Tom Douglass, Lisa Ransom & Scott Baughman, Clark Amadon, Don LaRocca, Ricky Blake, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

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

Public Comment Period – No one offered public comment tonight

Approval of Minutes –

12/12/13 – Rae moved to approve the minutes of 12/12/13 as written. Michelle seconded. John abstained as he was absent. Rae, Michelle and Reed were in favor.

12/16/13 - Michelle moved to approve the minutes of 12/16/13 as written. Reed seconded. All were in favor.

Reports & Communication, Announcements –

Cheryl mentioned that a fellow from Duxbury stopped by the office saying there was interest in Duxbury beginning its own fire department, in part because of what Waterbury charges Duxbury for fire protection.

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Jay Pilliod was appointed Energy Coordinator for Moretown in October of 2013, after Karen Horn stepped down to help out on the planning commission. The board asked Jay to come in tonight and update them on the plans and goals of the energy committee going forward. Discussion included:

- The energy committee met on 11/20/13 and the following are highlights from that meeting:

Goals and intentions:

- To promote folks to take advantage of energy efficiency programs such as what is provided by Efficiency Vermont;
- Promote efficiency awareness through hosting an energy fair;
- Promote public awareness of renewal energy resources available such as what Crockett Brook Middle School has done with solar;
- Promote to have “net zero” town buildings and to enroll in Efficiency Vermont/GMP programs;
- Gather data about who in Moretown currently have wind systems or solar systems; and
- Work with the Mad River Valley Energy Group to see if there might be some benefits Moretown can take advantage of or help them with.

Clark Amadon gave an update on the town office project, saying that the studies and reports necessary for the required Environmental Review (ER) are holding up the project somewhat. The ER must be done and approved prior to any grant funds being released so it is important that this be addressed as soon as possible.

Clark learned that three other studies are necessary as part of the ER. They are:

- Phase 1 Environmental Assessment for contaminants on the “playground” site;
- Historic Preservation Assessment; and
- Archaeological Assessment.

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Bids are due for the Phase 1 Environmental Assessment on January 15. The Historic Preservation and Archaeological Assessments will be done as soon as the board approves those costs tonight. They did not go out to bid because those costs are considerably less than the Phase 1 work.

Clark said the cost for the four studies mentioned above can be used towards the town’s share of the grant, and total around \$15,000.

Michelle moved to hire the UVM Consulting Archaeology Program to do the Archaeological Resources Assessment for the price of \$2,022 and to hire Suzanne Jamele to do the Historic Preservation Assessment for the price of \$560, both of which are requirements of the community development block grant for the new town office. Reed seconded. All were in favor.

Don LaRocca came in with the finalized restructured capital improvement plan / capital budget. The document was reviewed and found to be what the board is looking for.

Don said he has met with Martin about the highway budget and plans to meet with the fire department and library personnel, but the selectboard needs to add numbers for the town office and the town hall. Other than that, he is basically done.

The board plans to meet on January 13th to finish the town budget and to add the numbers to the capital budget as needed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Blodgett appeal of location of trail #49 – No word yet on when the “relocated” access to the trail that is being proposed by Blodgett will be staked out/flagged so the selectboard can go and take a look at its location.

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Shoveling out the town hall entrances – Martin was originally asked to lend a hand shoveling out the town hall when Becky had an injury. In an email from Martin, he stated that it was never his intention to volunteer the road crew to shovel out the entrances to the town hall, and questioned how much longer he is expected to do the extra assignment.

There was discussion that the road crew is now snowplowing the sidewalks which takes additional time on their part.

It was decided that a search to see if anyone is interested in helping out with the shoveling will be put on Moretown Front Porch Forum, until then Reed will ask Martin to continue with the snow removal.

Town hall rentals listed on the web site – Cherilyn and Steve Sharp have worked together to arrange for rentals of the town hall to be on the moretownvt.org website. This should give reference to interested parties whether or not the hall is available on certain dates, and to those who maintain the hall when rentals will happen.

New business:

Host Town Agreement for cell 4 – There was discussion about setting time for work to begin on a new host town agreement (HTA). Discussion included whether or not the host town committee would be working on the HTA, or just the selectboard. The board will talk about this more at their 1/21/14 meeting.

Next Select Board meeting – Because Monday, January 20th is a town recognized holiday, the board will meet on Tuesday, January 21st in accordance with the personnel policy guidelines for holidays.

Reed moved to meet on Tuesday, January 21st for the second regular meeting of the selectboard. John seconded. All were in favor.

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Work on the 2014 town budget/article – The board will finish the 2014 budget on 1/13/14, but there was a brief discussion tonight about whether or not to have an article to ask voters to purchase a new tandem axle dump truck.

Discussion included: what expense obligations there are already for 2014; the lack of tipping fees in 2014; replacing the 2004 dump body can wait another year; replacing the 2001 dump body can't wait which will cost about \$20,000; which truck would be traded in; postponing the purchase of new equipment until 2015 might mean an increase in cost; and borrowing from our own reserved funds versus the bank to save on interest charges. Borrowing from the Savings Reserve Fund would require voter approval.

No warrants were presented tonight for approval.

Documents presented for approval were:

- City of Montpelier fire and ambulance contract
- Fountain Forestry Road Maintenance Permit Application
- Sidewalk Grant Agreement

All of which were approved.

Reed moved to adjourn at 8:00 p.m., Michelle seconded. All were in favor.