

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

Draft – Unapproved minutes of the 10/6/14 Selectboard meeting

Board members present were: Rae Washburn, Michelle Beard, Reed Korrow

Guests included: Raymond Munn, Rachel Goff, Martin Cameron, Bruce Johnsen, Deborah Feldman, Mike Woods, Heather Raylinski, and Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board.

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

Public Comment:

Bruce Johnsen – said on October 1st he received a \$25 fine from Moretown's Animal Control Officer Shane Grace for violation to Moretown's Animal Control Ordinance. He added that Shane left a message that hereafter any fine would be \$100. He (Bruce) doesn't really know what specifically the fine is for. He guesses that this dog problem relates to his landlord's problem with Kim Allshouse about the lack of his paying association dues, since she made the complaint. Kim's dog is also off its leash and off her property. Bruce requested due process in the appeal of the fine.

A hearing for Bruce to meet with the Selectboard is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 20th. Cheryl will ask Shane to attend the hearing and to invite Kim Allshouse as well. The board approved that Bruce can delay paying the fine until after the 10/20 hearing.

Approval of Minutes – Michelle moved; seconded by Reed to approve the minutes of 9/15/14 as printed. All were in favor.

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Reports & Communication, Announcements –

Gray/Cote request for refund of Homestead Declaration penalty – With only three board members present tonight, discussion was tabled until 10/20.

Waiver of town hall rental fees - Mary Murphy requested that the Selectboard waive the rental fee for the December 6th Methodist Church Christmas Bazaar.

Michelle moved; Rae seconded to waive the town hall rental fee for the December 6th Christmas Bazaar. All were in favor.

Town insurance – Reed moved to stay with VLCT/PACIF for the town’s liability/workers’ compensation/peril/vehicle insurance needs in 2005. All were in favor.

Unlicensed Dogs listing – The board was given a new listing tonight of unlicensed dogs. The list is down to about eleven owners. The Selectboard will send a letter giving the owner’s on this new list until November 1st to license their dogs otherwise they will be subject to a \$150 fine per dog.

FEMA money – Cheryl met with Tom Berry from Senator Leahy’s office, to talk about the Congressional delegation reaching out to FEMA in an effort to speed up the process to pay actual costs for replacing the bridge lost during Irene. Tom relayed speaking with Mary Andes (our Homeland Security consultant) as she has been working closely with the Town and FEMA on this, and after talking with Tom she really believes that there is a chance of getting to a solution with FEMA.

Tom promised to keep an eye on the progress.

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OLD BUSINESS:

Moretown Mountain Road project –

Traffic - Ray Munn mentioned that people are parking by Corky Griffith's; leaving cars at the store and in the mill yard, filling the parking lots. People are apparently leaving one car parked in the village and one car on the hill.

Retaining/drainage work – Martin said technically it is possible to get the drain in at the retaining wall, but with ½ of the wall gone (as the plans call for) he and the contractor have concerns that the wall might come down later. The contractor suggested removing all of the retaining wall and replacing it with fill and rock. There would be an additional cost of \$2,100 to remove the retaining wall. Martin would like the wall gone.

Rae moved; Reed seconded to authorize a change order for \$2,100 and allow GW Tatro remove the retaining wall and replace it with stone as Cody Marsh presented to Martin. All were in favor.

Guardrail – Martin has concerns about road maintenance impacts if guardrails are installed after the reconstruction is complete. Discussion will continue on 10/20.

Constables re: law enforcement needs – Dave Van Deusen was unable to attend tonight. Raymond Munn 2nd Constable asked what the town needed.

Discussion followed about getting someone interested in getting training; contracting with the State Police but that cost is \$65 per hour; and about hiring a constable who is certified from another town for specific law enforcement issues.

Listers re:

Updating the tax maps – The listers came in tonight for an update on where the selectboard stands on hiring a consultant to update the town's tax maps.

Rae suggested that the listers present their 2015 budget request to include monies for the update. The board wants to move forward with the update process.

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The listers will provide the board with their recommendation about who they think should be hired to update the tax maps; and find out for sure if the contractor of choice still agrees to let the town spread out the payment over the next two years. Further discussion table until 10/20.

Errors & Omission request by property owner – A landowner who owns a large parcel of property in Moretown claims he has approximately 15 acres under a power line, and asked the listers to request that the selectboard do an errors & omission because the listers failed to take the power line into consideration in his appraisal. This is the first time the landowner has mentioned the power line. The land use plan that the listers go by do not indicate the power line. The listers do not feel an error was made on their part.

The Selectboard doesn't feel this is an error and declined to do an error & omissions, but the landowner can go through the grievance process in the spring for his 2015 assessment.

The listers will let the landowner know the board denied his request.

Other old business:

Old town office appraisal for HMGP Buy-out – The town was required to have a professional appraisal done of the old town office building pre-Irene. The appraisal came in at \$65,000, so that is the amount the town will receive from FEMA for the buy-out. The town will also get reimbursed for the appraisal cost.

Cheryl will ask Steve Smith if the fire department has thought of a place to move the old town office so they can continue to use the building for fire training.

Elevator pad repair – Joe submitted a bid of \$2,379.50 to replace the elevator pad at the town hall.

Rae thinks Brian Anderson just as soon have Joe do the work because he is really busy.

Rae moved to hire Joe Gabaree for a price of \$2,379.50 to replace the elevator pad/entrance at the town hall. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

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Gallagher Acres traffic study – Because of concerns raised about speeding in Gallagher Acres, and the fact that there are lots of new houses going up in the development, the selectboard had a traffic study done. The findings indicate that 85% of the traffic is going 17 mph. Having that information, the selectboard will not pursue the process to lower the speed limit at this time.

Warrants were signed:

#50 Ck # 16390

#51 Ck# 16391-16397

#52 Ck# 16398-16416

#53 Ck# 16417-16418

E-Ck's 1744-1766

All check #'s were verified as being consecutive with where warrant #49 left off.

Rae moved; Reed seconded to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. All were in favor.