

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

**Draft** - Notice of unapproved minutes of the 1/5/15 Selectboard meeting

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

Guests included: Cherilyn Brown, Rachel Goff, Martin Cameron, Don LaRocca, Pat Travers, Cheryl Brown as board assistant

Tom called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**No one was present for public comment.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**12/15/14** – Rae moved; John seconded to approve the minutes of 12/15/14 as written. All were in favor.

**Reports & Communication, Announcements:**

**Moretown Mountain Road reconstruction – 2015 start date** – GW Tatro wants to begin work on phase II in April of 2015 if the board approves.

After discussion about grant funding; school bussing etc., the decision was that the project will start in mid-late June. The board realizes this decision will change the completion date stated on the contract.

**Fire truck/tanker inspection by J & B International** – J & B inspected the 1987 tanker truck to assess what repairs needed to be done to the truck, and whether the truck was road worthy. The result was that the truck needs miscellaneous repairs amounting to about \$6500, plus further inspection on a couple of oil leaks which are most likely seals according to J & B. J & B considers the truck to be road worthy. Money will be budgeted for the repairs.

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**Pam Thurber email** – requesting ownership confirmation of Bridge #38 on Showacre Road.

Showacre Road was designated a town trail in 1987. As per the town’s Class IV Road and Trail Policy, the town is not obligated to maintain bridges and culverts on class IV roads and trails (3). The policy does state that in the case of a disaster or unforeseen emergency event, the town will restore a class IV road or trail to its pre-disaster condition (7).

**CLA** – Moretown’s Common Level of Appraisal, which has an impact on the education tax rate for 2015, is 103.71. Last year the CLA was 102.94. The higher the CLA the better. The increase is due in part because the town contracts a professional assessor to assist our town listers while they learn the process.

**Investments - Don LaRocca** – came in to update the board on the investments made through Merchants Trust. Reports provided by Don (and are available to each board member online) were reviewed. The bottom line indicates a small deficit at this time.

**Martin Cameron** – came in tonight to review the numbers being proposed for the 2015 road budget, which was reviewed, and about other highway business in general. Discussion included:

- There is an agreement between Mike McCarty and the town regarding a snowplow turn-a-round on McCarty’s Cobb Hill property, as a trade-off for grading the class IV portion of Cobb Hill leading to his house. Martin hasn’t seen the agreement but apparently the grading hasn’t been done in a couple of years.
- Gravel budget – Martin will bring up the subject again this year about getting more free stone from Moretown Landfill.
- Creating new and utilizing existing “funds” for highway related expenses that are offset by grants. Michelle moved to have Cherilyn create a separate fund for highway grant expenses and also to keep the sidewalk project in the separate fund already established. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

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Using funds separate from the highway budget will alleviate the conception that the highway budget is overspent, when in fact the expenses are offset by revenue.

- The highway department will continue shoveling the town hall entrances again this year as necessary. The HUHS students using the building for classes will be asked if they are interested in helping out with the shoveling as part of their home maintenance education.
- Martin asked if it was ok to change the water source from the rear of the building to the front to make it easier to wash equipment. Martin will get pricing.

**Public Hearing for Moretown Sidewalk Project** – Local Project Manager for the sidewalk project Pat Travers, presented a full scale drawing of pre-conceptual design for the new sidewalks. Engineer for the project Doug Henson, was unable to provide a complete design, but Pat reviewed and explained what was available to him tonight.

Rae questioned the grade of the sidewalk versus the lawns in some areas, worried that ponding may occur. Pat will take this concern back to Doug.

A bridge on the outer side of the bridge will be placed over Doctor's Brook. A permanent easement will be needed from the Schultz's because one end of the bridge may be on their property. Final conceptual plans will be ready and presented at a second public hearing on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Michelle will call the villagers to let them know about the next public hearing.

**Steve Smith** was scheduled to come in tonight, but was unable to attend due to a fire in Berlin that he was called to. There is a fire meeting tomorrow night. Board members may attend to talk to the department more about their needs. Steve will be asked to come into the 1/20/15 meeting and to bring an equipment list with him.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Moretown School budget** – Rae attended the last schoolboard meeting and said the schoolboard dropped their request for an additional teacher. A solution was found instead. Rae believes the school budget increase will be 4-5%.

**Education property tax resolution** – tabled until 1/20/15.

**Unlicensed dogs** – All dogs on the prior listing have been licensed except for Dave Van Deusen’s two dogs. Tom will call Dave about getting this done.

**Blodgett litigation** – Nothing new.

**Budget & article work included:**

- The language in the article that would designate the library a “town” library. There will be an article (and explanation) at town meeting.
- Pay raises – Tom moved effective 1/1/15, to give 2.5% raises across the board, except for the Animal Control Officer (Shane Grace); Town Hall Manager (Becky Ciampi); and Web Administrator (Steve Sharp), as their pay will be based on a stipend in 2015. Reed seconded. All were in favor.
- Shane and Becky will receive \$250 stipend each quarter for a total of \$1,000 yr. each. This stipend set-up will be tried for one year.
- Steve Sharp’s pay will remain at \$4,000 yr.
- Thomas was hired 5/5/14. Was his probation 6 mo. or 1 yr.? And was he promised a raise in 6 mo.? Cheryl will find out.

**New Business:**

**Request from schoolboard to use deeryard money** to buy Chrome notebooks – The schoolboard asked Rae to request the town release \$5,000 from the deeryard fund to buy new notebooks for the kids.

Discussion: It seems the notebooks are school budget items.

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While the board appreciates the schoolboard asking, it is the consensus that they can't justify spending deeryard money on something that will not benefit all the children. The deeryard money will instead be used to help pay for the new sidewalks, and to relocate the school playground when the new town office building is built. The estimated total for the sidewalks and playground is \$57,500.

Rae moved for the town to use \$5,000 of town deeryard money to buy the school new Chrome notebooks. Michelle seconded. Vote unanimously nay. Motion failed.

**VLCT Equipment Grant** – round one is now open. The grant could be used either by the highway department or the fire department, for numerous selected items from video surveillance systems, turnout gear, to bollards and culvert thawing equipment. The grant period ends 4/30/15.

**Approval of warrants -**

A/P Warrant #66 – Ck# 16589-16604

16608-16611 (invoices added to warrant)

Payroll Warrant #67 – Ck# 16605-16607

E-Ck# 1819-1829

Warrant and check #'s verified as being consistent with the last warrant.

**Other documents signed –**

Overload permit for Scott Brown

Sidewalk grant agreement STP BP13 (8), Contract #CA0371 #1 - signed

Tom moved to adjourn at 9:35. Rae seconded. All were in favor.