

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

**DRAFT** – Unapproved minutes of the 3/16/15 Selectboard meeting

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

Guests included: Clayton Wetzel, Martha Douglass, Martin Cameron, John Malter, Jonathan Siegel, Adam Greshin, Bill Kernan, Dara Torre, Carl Wimble, Rebecca Stone (CROs), Kim & Emily (CVRPC), Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

**Public Comment:**

**Martha Douglass** – Asked about the vacancy on the Select Board.

Tom advised that we have received two letters requesting appointment, and that the plan is to meet with the two people at the next meeting (4/6/15) with the hope of making an appointment. The term would fill the vacancy until 2016 Town Meeting.

**Clayton Wetzel** – Asked if it was possible to have material put down on the Herring Brook Road where Martin left off last year. Clayton added that the road crew does a great job and that the roads down his way are in fairly good shape if you travel at the appropriate speed.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of 2/17/15, 3/2/15, 3/9/15 for approval tonight.

Michelle moved to approve all of the above minutes as printed; seconded by John. All were in favor.

**Reports & Communication, Announcements:**

**Craig Eilers** forwarded the board an email earlier today and came in tonight to explain why Fleischer Jacobs Group was invoicing the town for broker fees for work done by Craig on health insurance.

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Craig notified the board of a change that took place regarding the Broker Consulting Fee for Moretown health insurance provided by Vermont Health Connect (VHC). For 2015, the State has allowed the broker community to perform this service without State intervention. Craig partnered with Fleischer Jacobs Group (FJG) as of 1/1/15, who would do the billing and in turn paying Craig. The broker fee remains to be \$20 per insured (\$100 mo.). Craig said he is a communication and service conduit between the client and BC/BS.

John indicated that he had spoken with Blue Cross/Blue Shield about the need for a broker. BC/BS verified that they can do for us any work that a broker can do and that the cost is included in the premium. John also offered to help out as needed, but we do not need a broker.

The board agreed to void the check mailed to \$100 VHC and returned, for December broker services, and to pay Craig for broker fees for January and February associated with the FJG invoices (\$100 each month).

Cheryl will thank Craig Eilers for his work to get the VHC health insurance up and running and let him know he will be paid \$300 total for the months of December (2014), January, & February broker fee, but the town has decided that no broker is needed at this time.

**Martin Cameron** was scheduled for 7:15 p.m. but came in early. And because the 6:30 guest wasn't here yet, the board moved up Martin's appointment. The board felt the discussion with Martin warranted executive session.

Michelle moved; Tom seconded to enter into executive session at 6:15 p.m. all were in favor.

Tom moved; John seconded to exit executive session at 6:50. All were in favor.

**John Malter** came in to give his state of the Mad River Resource Management Alliance (MRRMA) report, highlighting collection events information, the Alliance and its amended budget due to the fact that Northfield pulled out, causing a shortfall. This year's shortfall will fall on the back of John Malter's pay. Meaning that he will be donating a portion of time he works this year to make up for the lost revenue from Northfield's dues.

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Although the budget numbers have been revised, the MRRMA report can be found on page 46 of the 2015 Town Report.

Other points of interest from John Malter were:

- The close of Moretown Landfill reduced 40% of the MRRMA budget.
- Another 30% of the MRRMA budget was lost when Northfield pulled out due to the loss of dues and the impact on the solid waste grant.
- Unfunded mandates relating to Act 148 are creating a real hardship.
- Adam Greshin was present. He asked how people felt about keeping the mandates (Act 148), but “go slower” to implement.
- John Malter is 100% in favor of Act148 stewardship but with the right approach to minimize trash and expenses. It would be great if the mandate dates were extended, and also if we could come up with a way to support (financially) the mandates. John added that we are not equal to Chittenden County in trash disposal needs; or financially equipped to handle the mandates so quickly. We need to think it through.
- District vs Alliance – it is unclear at this time what the cost would be to do away with the alliance and join a district. Bill Kernan thinks the downside of going to a district is pushing the cost of surcharges onto the customer. Jonathan Siegel said not only the surcharges but; loss of control and loss of convenience.
- Karen Horn handed out a Solid Waste Legislation Proposal offered by VLCT on 2/11/15. The proposal includes extending some of the mandate dates five years.

John reminded; Moretown needs to appoint a representative to MRRMA.

**Rebecca Stone** from Community Resilience Organizations (CROs) – came in tonight to explain what CROs is. Defining CROs as a better way for every person to communicate during a disaster within communities as a “team”.

CROs is a Vermont Pilot Program, launched in 2015 with towns; Hartford, Jeffersonville, Londonderry, Putney and Waterbury. Each town will receive building and organizational support and participate in a summit to share ideas and to begin planning. CROs hopes to add an additional five towns in 2016; and more in subsequent years.

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Several leaders from towns will be brought together for planning ie; road crew, school, farmers market, food shelf etc. CROs suggested that people meet your neighbors, know what they would need in a disaster; check propane tanks to be sure they are secure; know your community and what needs and vulnerable areas if there were to be a disaster and make a plan to help. Similar to the Disaster Recovery Plan but geared toward the needs of residents as well.

Kim and Emily from Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) presented a hand out about their plans to submit a proposal to the High Meadows Fund *Building Resilience in Vermont Watershed* grant program, to seek funds to establish and coordinate a five-town (Waterbury, Moretown, Duxbury, Bolton, and Richmond) partnership for the Winooski watershed and to implement activities to increase resiliency and better understand the impact of stormwater during extreme weather events.

The board thanked everyone for coming in tonight to explain the CROs program, and said the board would think about everything that was presented tonight; and look for volunteers to see if there is enough in committing.

**Carl Wimble for Public Comment** – Carl noted that the selectboard minutes of 2/2, 2/9, 2/17, and 3/9/15 were not posted on the website as they should have been; nor was the 2/9/15 meeting agenda.

The selectboard meeting from 2/2/15 was postponed due to a storm with no agenda changes, therefore there would be no 2/2 minutes; as for the 2/9 agenda, the 2/2 agenda posted was used for the postponed 2/9/15 meeting. The 2/9/15 minutes were in fact on the website. Cheryl will try to figure out why the 2/17 and 3/9 minutes aren't on the website.

Carl spoke about why an employee got a loan as was in the 2/17 minutes, since those minutes weren't posted on the website, was someone hiding something?

Tom told Carl the loan was a payroll advance to be paid back via a payroll deduction; not an unusual action as it had been done for employees in the past. Tom added that the discussion and loan approval happened during open meeting discussion via a motion, and a loan agreement signed by the board. Tom advised Carl to call him/board members in the future if he had such questions.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Liaisons** – 2015 liaisons are Selectboard members as follows:

Highway Department – Tom  
Fire Department – Tom  
Town Office – Town Clerk/Treasurer – Michelle  
Listers, Zoning Administrator, Auditors – John  
Town Office and Sidewalk Committee – Michelle  
Library, Town Hall and Historical Society – Rae  
Animal Control Officer - Tom

Liaisons will meet with department leads and report back on a quarterly basis

**Requests for appointment to vacant offices** –

**Selectboard** – Jason Aronowitz and Paula Masterardino Woods requested appointment and will attend the 4/6/15 selectboard meeting to talk with the board. There is 1 vacancy. No appointment made tonight.

**Auditor** – Request from Callie Streeter. Callie left no phone number and attempted to email Callie bounced back. No appointment made tonight. There are 2 vacancies

**Lister** – Deborah Feldman and Callie Streeter requested appointment. Tom moved to appoint Deb Feldman as lister until 2016 town meeting; John seconded. All were in favor. There is 1 remaining vacancy.

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable** – Ray Munn request for appointment for either 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable; Jason Gerrish also requested appointment. There are two more people interested who talked to board members. No appointment made tonight.

**Delinquent dog license for 2014** – VanDeusen’s dog is the only unlicensed dog from 2014. Rae will talk with Dave about getting the paperwork done.

**Sidewalk project** – Pat Travers will be in on 4/6/15 to give an update.

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## **Reports & Communication, Announcements –**

**Paul Gillies email re: Belding family cemetery** – According to Ron Ferrara, attorney for Ms. Williams, there appears to be a Belding Cemetery on Ms. Williams Fox Farm Run (off Rt 100B) property according to USGS topo maps.

Cemetery Commissioners say the Belding Cemetery is on Route 100, not on the lands of Ms. Williams.

Because of the litigation Ms. Williams currently has going on with her lands, Paul Gillies wondered if it might be a good idea to clear up this issue. The board agreed to have Paul do the title search clarification.

### **Documents for signature:** Overload permits

Sub-Grantee agreements for HMGP – Wetzel

Memo from the Treasurer authorizing a transfer of \$3,759.71 from the Recreation Fund to the General Fund for mowing costs. Memo signed as approval. The schoolboard will be asked to attend the 4/20/15 selectboard meeting to talk about mowing/plowing etc. town/school land.

**Warrant** - # 13 was approved – Check # 16753-16790

Tom moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

Back in at session at 9:01 because there was one more order of business relating to the Wetzel Hazard Mitigation Grant signed earlier. Clayton Wetzel wondered if the town would be paying the expenses relating to the grant and then submit them for reimbursement as was done with the Magill grant.

Tom moved to pay the expenses relating to the Wetzel HMGP and submit them for reimbursement, under the condition that Wetzel agrees to pay any costs associated to the grant that are not covered during the reimbursement. John seconded. All were favor.

John moved to adjourn (again) at 9:02 p.m. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.