

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

**Draft – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 6/1/15 Selectboard meeting**

Board members present: Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom, Jason Aronowitz, Rae Washburn

Guests included: Doug Henson, Pat Travers, John & Ellie Hilferty, Frank Piazza, Dara Torre, Susan Werntgen, John and Annette Schultz, Patti Haynes, Rachel Goff, Don & Rita LaRocca, Leslie Russell, Lt. Matt Nally, Jeff Campbell, Dennis Bache, Henry Erickson, Clark Amadon, Bill Gallup, John Schmeltzer, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

Tom called the meeting to order at 6:15 and asked for a moment of silence for Meridan Nelson. Meridan will be missed.

At 5:00 there was walk of where the new sidewalks will be. The public hearing began at 6:15 with Dara giving a history of how it got to this phase of the sidewalk project.

Discussion included:

- Speed in the village has always been an issue. Traffic designers tend to think that curbs reduce speed. There will be curbing installed as part of the project.
- Patti continues to be very concerned about the elevation of the sidewalk as it meets her driveway, and wouldn't mind have a dip at her driveway.
- If a dip is done for one driveway, it will be done for all. Residents present tonight would be in favor of that, and think it would also address drainage concerns.
- The Selectboard is committed to do what is right for all parties who will be affected by this project. That is why public participation is important, so concerns can be addressed at this design phase.
- Susan said the design pushes the sidewalks closer to her house, which will widen the road and therefore will remove the natural green buffer. Susan did agree that the extra width is needed, saying it's scary to walk side by side on the current narrower sidewalk.

**Draft** – unapproved minutes of the 6/1/15 selectboard meeting

- Frank asked if we can reduce the new sidewalks from a 5' to 4' width, and plant trees which would make things more aesthetically appealing. Doug indicated that the ADA standard for sidewalks is 5'. There are circumstances where allowances are made to reduce the 5' to 4', that would be for a reason such as a utility pole, drain etc., but for a short distance only.
- Less parking on the street because of the curbing.
- There will be no bike lane.
- Patti said the new sidewalk is coming even closer to our water wells, which means the road salt could impact its quality.
- Cheryl will contact the State and ask the extent to which they have the right to put salt etc., onto people's property where water wells could be contaminated.
- Patti asked if the town could not accept the grant and leave the sidewalks as they are? The answer was yes, we do have that option.
- Frank spoke again about traffic issues near Hurdle Road, as people come into the village they may not reduce their speed now that the road will be wider.

End of the public hearing

**Public Comment: - None tonight**

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

**Trees across the road from the town garage** – Rae asked if they were dead. Some are yes. This might be a possible project for the Waterbury Rotary to help with the tree replacement.

**Sidewalk project and town office project** – Jason wondered if the town office designer and the sidewalk designer were both aware that the town office project calls for sidewalks running from Route 100B to the new town office. Cheryl said she and Pat Travers have talked about this and are aware of the sidewalk leading to the new town office.

**Draft** – unapproved minutes of the 6/1/15 selectboard meeting

**Capital Budget review** – Don Larocca asked about the upkeep of the capital budget. Jason noted to Don that he works for the State Department of Finance & Management and is looking into the management of the capital budget as it ties into the town budget, cash flow etc.

Don offered to assist Jason in any way he can.

**Approval of the 5/18/15 meeting minutes:**

John moved; Tom seconded to approve the 5/18/15 with Michelle’s notes incorporated as follows: *Pat Travers’ quote was based on 39 weeks not 28. Henry Erickson’s bid quote was based on 36 weeks; Henry’s appointment as Clerk of the Works was conditional based on him adding language to the contract to clarify additional tasks.* Vote: All were in favor.

**Old Business:**

**Spillway Road** – Rae, Martin, and Tom met with Mark Austin about Mark’s concerns with one of the abutments on the new bridge.

Rae understands Marks concern, saying that one of new abutments (on Austin’s side of the bridge) doesn’t seem tapered enough and looks like it could channel ice and/or water.

Cheryl will contact the State and ask that they come and take a look at the abutment and give the town advise about what should be done.

**Neighborhood Watch presentation** – Lt. Matt Nally of the Middlesex State Police, and Officer Jeff Campbell of the Warren Dept. of Public Safety were here tonight to give a presentation for having a Neighborhood Watch.

Leslie Russell organized this presentation because for the last year or so, there have been several break-ins and she wants to feel safe in her neighborhood. Leslie lives on Hathaway Road. Discussion with Lt. Nally included:

- Neighborhood Watch works.
- Communication amongst neighbors is crucial for a successful program.
- Small groups make the most sense for easier communication.
- Have a specific point of contact. Someone who is easily reached.

**Draft** – unapproved minutes of the 6/1/15 selectboard meeting minutes

- It is very important to report anything suspicious to the State Police at the following email: [dps.vspmsex@state.vt.us](mailto:dps.vspmsex@state.vt.us)
- The Selectboard will identify where the Neighborhood Watch signs will go and the road department will install them.
- We have 3 signs. Cheryl will look for a grant to help pay for more signs.
- A slide show was presented, indicating just how few troopers there are in the Middlesex barracks to cover 18 towns. The cost for Moretown to contract with the State Police would be \$66/hr. Lt. Nally suggested talking with E. Montpelier as a point of contact to find out their experience with the State contract. Jeff will pass along contacts.

End of presentation.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Finalization of Erickson Consulting Clerk of the Works Contract** – It was clarified that Henry will provide at least a weekly report to the Selectboard, and a summary report once per month.

There will need to be a liaison established that Henry can contact in a hurry if need be.

If the low bidder gets the work, he wants to start in September of 2015 for a February 2016 completion.

Rae moved; Jason seconded to sign the contract to hire Henry Erickson as Clerk of the Works for the town office project. All were in favor.

**General Contractor bids for the town office project** - were as follows:

Ruggco	\$766,015
Trumbull-Nelson	\$1,124,876
Millbrook	\$829,480
Necco	\$920,029

Discussion followed:

- About the total cost of the project being \$895,253 as of tonight.
- To date nearly \$73,000 has been spent.

**Draft** – unapproved minutes of the 6/1/15 selectboard meeting

- Estimates conclude that with the current numbers a \$65K over budget (which includes a \$40K contingency; and going from a slate floor to a polished concrete with a contract deduct of \$9,325).
- As allowed in the bid proposal, Henry and Bill G. will have a conversation with Ruggco (low bidder) to see if he might suggest how to lower the construction price.
- The project allows for the playground to be disassembled and moved to the new site, but not the reassemble of the unit.
- The new town office building will be 3’8” above the Irene stage, and 1’ higher than the 500 yr. flood elevation.
- Clark will petition the State to increase the grant amount due to factors such as: the length of time it took to do the required environmental review which impacted the prices; the addition of improved flood resiliency etc.

No contractor was chosen tonight. Discussion will continue on 6/15/15 after Henry and Bill have spoken with the contractor.

### **More old business:**

**Moretown Mountain Road reconstruction** – Area 2 of the reconstruction of the Moretown Mountain Road (village hill) will begin as scheduled later this month. The total project cost will be \$139,700. There is \$57 in reserves. It is expected that the remaining \$83K will come in part from the highway budget.

Tom has a call into Dave Lavendar of Advanced Disposal about availability of rock from the landfill to use on town projects. He will report later.

Rae wants to talk with Martin about where they can cut the highway budget.

There was discussion about asking GW Tatro if the town could pay for the work in January 2016. Rae will call them.

Cheryl will contact Cody Marsh at GW Tatro and give him the go-ahead to start the project in June as planned.

**Blodgett litigation** – It was discussed and decided by the board that since the court case hasn’t been settled, tonight’s discussion needs to be in executive session.

**Draft** – unapproved minutes of the 6/1/15 selectboard meeting

Tom moved to enter into executive session at 9:30 pm to discuss the Blodgett litigation, whereby premature public knowledge would clearly place the town and person involved at a disadvantage. Rae seconded. All were in favor. Cheryl was invited to stay for the discussion.

Tom moved out of executive session at 9:35 p.m. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

John moved to accept the revised Stipulation to settle the court litigation between Calvin Blodgett and the Town. Jason seconded. All were in favor.

Rae moved to enter into executive session at 9:40 p.m. to discuss an employee related matter. Tom seconded. All were in favor.

Rae moved out of executive session at 9:50 p.m. No action as a result.

**Salaries and Benefits** – Discussion for the most part was tabled until the 6/15 meeting, but Jason reported having spoken with VLCT about benefits. They said that towns generally pay between 80-100% of the health insurance premium, and in most cases Blue Cross/Blue Shield is the carrier. The Town of Fayston pays 85% of the insurance premium for both the employee and dependent, so it probably equals about the same as Moretown paying 100% for employee and 50% for dependents. The Town of Middlesex pays 100% for the employee and 50% for the dependent for the BC/BS Silver Plan. Middlesex does not cover domestic partners.

Cheryl calculated the 8% increase planned for 2016. If Moretown kept the same health coverage and contribution as was in 2015, the overall total increase for the town in 2016 would be \$3,900.

John said it is totally up to the town if we want to cover domestic partnerships.

### **Review of town meeting articles – tabled until 6/15/15**

#### **Documents signed were:**

- Revised stipulation between Calvin Blodgett and the Town
- Overload permits
- Requisition for reimbursement for the sidewalk project

**Draft** – unapproved minutes of the 6/1/15 selectboard meeting

**Warrants: A/P # 25** – check # 16932-16951

**P/R # 26** – check # 16952

e-check # 1918-1928

Warrant numbers and check numbers were verified as being consecutive with the last warrants approved.

Tom moved; Jason seconded to adjourn at 10:00 pm.