

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

DRAFT – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 1/19/16 Selectboard meeting

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

Guests included: Cherilyn Brown, Henry Erickson, JB Weir, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

John called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Public Comment period –

Cherilyn – Said she is really disappointed in the board’s decision to level fund the salaries of the office workers. According to VLCT standards she and other office personnel aren’t being treated fairly, when other town personnel are being paid according to the VLCT standards.

The board explained that it is difficult to put all aspects involved in the duties, benefits, etc. for office workers in particular and so more time is needed for that process to be carefully thought out. For example, Cherilyn may do more than a town clerk or treasurer in another town, and that needs to be taken into consideration when bringing her pay up to standards. The board will take extra time and make their decision on raises to be given by the first meeting in April. Monies have been put into the Selectboard budget for raises once determined.

Henry – came in with four change orders 9, 10, 11, and 12. There was discussion on each change order as to why it is needed.

Tom moved to approve change order number 9, 11, and 12. John seconded. All were in favor. The change orders totaled \$3,328.30. Change order #10 needs more clarification from Henry before the board would approve it.

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Project update by Henry - Finish porch framing this week; roof sheathing will begin this week; buttoning up the roof this week; and the hope is to pour the slab next week. July 1, is the proposed completion date at this point.

Reports & Communication, Announcements –

Appointment of Auditor – Tom moved to appoint Rita LaRocca as auditor for the period of time until Town Meeting, March 1, 2016. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

AIG – Noticed termination of disability coverage effective 3/31/16, and advised that The Hartford will review the current policy and group details to take over the disability insurance coverage needs. Cheryl will check VLCT's coverage.

Vermont Office of the Washington County State's Attorney – Regarding Restitution Claim against Anna Caldwell for a DUI with accident resulting in Moretown in December. Cheryl will fill out the claim requesting \$25 for restitution to replace a damage sign.

Michelle - Spring into Moretown celebration 6/6/16 – The question was brought up whether or not the town's insurance would cover the event. When asked, VLCT said the town would have coverage for the event. Included in the event would be a bouncy house, which did bring up concerns with VLCT.

Michelle asked if there was interest from the board to help the celebration financially. Discussion followed that there is \$1000 in the budget.

John moved to support the spring into Moretown celebration with a \$500 contribution. Tom seconded. All were in favor.

Jason - Resolution to allow for an increase in municipal input during Public Service Board (PSB) proceedings - Jason read aloud a letter and resolution pertaining to applications before the PSB, and allowing for more input from the towns involved in the application. Jason asked that the Selectboard consider adoption of the resolution read aloud, reaffirming that towns have a voice.

Rae moved to adopt the resolution read aloud tonight, relating to more participation being allowed for the town involved in PSB applications. Jason seconded. All were in favor.

Tom: Extension to file 411 submitted - Tom reported a request from the Listers for permission to request an extension to file the Grand List 411. Tom said he gave his approval to file the extension.

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River Road snowplowing 1/18/16 – Tom said he received a call from a resident about 7am Monday morning, that the River Road wasn't plowed. Tom relayed the message to Martin, who said he made the judgement call to plow late because it was a holiday.

Rae thinks the road should have been plowed by 7 am, even though it was a holiday, it wasn't a big holiday and some people had to work.

Sidewalk maintenance – Tom was told that a young fellow (Kathan) is plowing the sidewalks. Martin added that maintaining the parking lot is taking longer than expected and he would like to hire someone for a couple of hours per storm to plow the sidewalks and the parking lot. That person would be using the town pickup and/or the town tractor.

Discussion followed that the pay rate would be \$15.38 hr. with no benefits, and temporary. Also discussed was that Wade Hastings might be available to help also. There was also discussion that the town pays taxes, workers compensation and unemployment for temporary workers.

Tom moved to allow Martin to hire Mr. Kathan on a temporary basis. John seconded. All were in favor.

Cherilyn asked to please have Martin send the fellow to the town office to fill out payroll paperwork before he can be paid.

JB Weir – E911 business

JB spoke about the closure of the bridge on Lover's Lane, saying that with the permanent closure the State recommends doing away with either Demas Road or Lover's Lane, from the 100B end, as it has the potential to create problems with E-911 emergency access as there isn't thru access with the bridge closed. There are three houses on Demas Road and one house on the 100B Lover's Lane (TH #11). There was discussion that the property owner (Hooper) on 100B Lover's Lane would need to build an access off Route 100B to make a E-911 change, or change the road name entirely. Demas Road shows access off from Route 2 end of Lover's Lane (TH #9) on the E911 map. JB will talk more with the State. No changes were made tonight.

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JB – Moretown Zoning Regulation revisions – Earlier today JB sent the board changes to the zoning regulations, as proposed to go before the voters on town meeting day. JB asked if the board had questions, or if they have questions after further review of the documents, to contact him. There will be two sections of the zoning regulations affected, plus subdivision regulations are being proposed. JB has been working with the Moretown Planning Commission on the revisions.

Approval of Minutes:

1/4/16 – Rae moved; John seconded to approve the minutes of 1/4/16 as written. All were in favor.

1/11/16 – Rae moved; John seconded to approve the minutes of 1/11/16 as written. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tax abatements of penalties and interest – The form people use to request abatements needs to be revised to make it clearer and to keep up with law revisions. Cheryl will amend the form.

Michelle will draft a cover letter that will be sent out by the selectboard with abatement forms, to delinquent taxpayers.

Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) – John Malter is in the process of submitting revisions to the State for the SWIP, according to John Hoogenboom.

Blodgett trail access – No word from Rob Townsend yet on a survey. Cheryl will email Rob for a status.

Howes Solar Array – Jason noted that the project is officially on hold because Green Mountain Power working with the PSB to increase the net metering cap.

Budget work commenced – A few revisions were made to last week’s draft.

Tom moved; seconded by John that the 2016 Town budget be \$1,072,662. All were in favor.

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New Business: Nothing tonight.

Warrant # 16004 check # 17487-17512 – approved as submitted.

Other documents for approval:

Reimbursement request to submit to the State for the sidewalk project expenses.

Liquor License for Jolley Associated (Moretown General Store).

Tom moved; John seconded to adjourn at 8:40 pm. All were in favor.