

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

DRAFT – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 2/22/16 Selectboard meeting, held in the place of the cancelled 2/16/16 meeting

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

Guests included: Steve Smith, Steve Gladczuk from CVRPC, JB McCarthy from VTrans Structures, Cheryl Brown as board assistant

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

Public Comment:

Steve Smith came to provide an update about payment options for the purchase of a new thermal camera for the fire department to replace the one that failed. Steve said Reynolds & Sons is coming tomorrow to give a demonstration of the camera and he would like to order it if it fits their needs. The price is \$8,500. He said Reynolds agreed to give the town 60 days to pay for the camera, possibly more. By then (May 1st), the town should have an idea whether the grant was awarded.

The consensus of the board was that this is an important piece of equipment. Purchasing the camera now with the payment options being offered won't impact the grant.

Rae moved, seconded by Michelle to allow Steve to move forward with the purchase of the thermal camera for the Moretown fire department for a price not to exceed \$8,500, and with no less than a 60 day payment option. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Reports & Communication, Announcements:

HUHS basketball award ceremony –

Mike Woods requested waiver of the rental fee for the use of the Moretown town hall for an awards banquet.

Rae moved; Michelle seconded to waive the rental fee of the town hall for the Harwood Union High School basketball award ceremony. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Categorical Exclusion Criteria for the Sidewalk Project –

The board needs to approve the Categorical Exclusion Criteria (CEC) set by the State of Vermont Environmental Section, for the construction of new sidewalks in Moretown village. The CEC considers the potential environmental consequences of the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. VTrans found the project meets all of the criteria specified in the CEC.

Jason moved; Michelle seconded to approve the Categorical Exclusion Criteria as defined by the 2/8/16 letter from the State of Vermont from John Narowski. All were in favor. Motion passed.

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Local Emergency Operations Plan and NIMS Adoption for 2016 – Michelle moved; seconded by John to Approve the Local Emergency Operations Plan and National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the basis for Moretown’s incident management. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Discussion followed that we should have a backup generator for our road department in case the power fails. Cheryl will ask Martin to find out what wattage would be necessary to run what he would need.

Spring into Moretown committee meeting notes – Michelle reported that “Spring into Moretown” will be held on 6/4/16, and is going to be a great event. The town’s insurance would cover the event.

6:30 - JB McCarty – Vtrans Structures Project Manager gave an overview of the condition of bridge #2 (near Old Gulf Road) on Route 100B. Inspectors found the 20’ wide bridge and abutments are structurally in fair condition, but the deck is functionally deficient and safety is an issue. VTrans has decided not to repair the deck now, as was the plan last month, because the cost would be about \$350,000. Instead they want to place jersey barriers next to the rails and make the bridge one lane, eliminating the safety issue.

JB went on to explain the options used by VTrans during their decision making process.

Discussion included:

- Reconstruction of the deck or replacing section would cost \$350,000; replacement of the deck would cost \$425,000.
- Studies/scoping will begin to fix the deck; possibly blast the ledge around the bridge; what the span and height of the bridge will be; water volume; environmental study etc., all of which could take upwards of five years.
- Making the bridge one lane would clearly drop its level of service.
- One lane would be 15’ 5” wide. The bridge is currently about 20’ wide.
- Signage will go up about one week before the bridge goes one lane.
- There will be a traffic light.
- The additional weight of the barriers on the decking will not be an issue.
- Negative impact to all valley towns if the bridge goes one lane. Let the valley towns know of VTrans plans.
- This is a state bridge and so maintenance costs are not incurred directly by the town.

The Selectboard told JB that they would rather see a temporary bridge placed over the deck instead of going to one way, and intend to write a letter to key VTrans personnel formally requesting a temporary bridge. It will be determined later who the letter will be sent to.

Approval of Minutes – 2/1/16 – Michelle moved; Rae seconded to approve the minutes as printed. John mentioned that he thought he was going to look into costs for short term disability insurance. Craig Eilers is our broker, and will be in on March 7th with quotes. Motion was approved.

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OLD BUSINESS:

Blodgett trail access – Rob Townsend will soon place markers where the new trail access will be, for parties to review.

Clerk of the Works for Town Office project – Henry’s contract runs out next month and he needs to provide a quote for continuing his clerk of the works services until project completion; and the board wants to know the time Henry has spent on this project thus far.

Cheryl will request Henry provide an itemized report of time spent on the project, and a quote to continue as clerk of the works.

Solar Array – The board sent the public service board (PSB) a letter in response to a personal letter to the PSB sent by Jason Aronowitz and Diana Halsall regarding the Howes Solar Array. Jason’s letter to PSB erroneously stated that the town filed paperwork in opposition to the array in December of 2015. That was not the case. It was noted that care should be taken to not name the town in personal filings.

New Business:

2016 annual town report – The board said the auditors did an amazing job putting the town report together.

The pre-Town Meeting Informational meeting - will be held on Monday, 2/29/16 at 7:00 pm in the Moretown Elementary School gymnasium. Town Meeting will be held at the Town Hall at 9 am.

Other documents for approval:

- Warrant #'s** **16008** – e-ck# 2107-2115 and check # 17535, 17536
 16009 - check # 17537-17570 (ck # 17571-17573 were voided and attached)
 16010 - check # 17574
 16011 - check # 17575 and e-check 2116-2126

Previous warrants were checked as consecutive with past warrants and check numbers.

Overload permits were signed for: Barrett Trucking; VELCO; and McCullough Crushing

Vt. Gran Fondo – cycling event happening 6/4/16.

Rae moved; Michelle seconded to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Motion passed.

