

**Town of Moretown
Office of the SELECTBOARD**

Draft – Unapproved minutes of the 12/28/09 Special meeting of the Selectboard

Board members present: Rae Washburn, Stephanie Venema, Rob Roberts, Dave VanDeusen, John Hoogenboom arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Guests: Tammy Lawrey of Denis, Ricker & Brown Insurance, Ken Canning and Dan Roda of Vermont League of Cities & Towns, Don LaRocca-Capital Budget Committee, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the Board

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

Insurance bids – Bid parties shared their bids with each other last week, to be sure both were bidding on the same criteria/limits/coverage etc. Revised bids received tonight from VLCT and Denis, Ricker & Brown Insurance, were opened as follows:

<u>VLCT</u> -	\$11,604 Workers Compensation
	<u>\$27,796</u> General/Property & Casualty
	\$39,400
Less credit	<u>1,172</u>
Net annual cost	\$38,228

Denis, Ricker & Brown Waterbury – **Net annual cost \$27,427** (includes Workers Compensation and General/Property & Casualty)

The quotes were compared at length for like coverage, deductibles, policy limits etc. Discussion included:

- VLCT insures 90% of Vermont municipalities
- Look at the differences in coverage versus the difference in annual premium (nearly \$11,000) as see if the lower cost plan suits Moretown's insurance needs, without the possibility of additional costs down the road to meet our current coverage
- Denis, Ricker & Brown's insurance may not include coverage for Faithful Performance bond (FPB), which the Selectboard thought might be good to have. Tammy said she would investigate to see if her plan includes the FPB coverage and if not, provide a cost.
- The town's current insurance coverage with VLCT expires 1/1/10, so the Board needs to make a decision prior to 12/31/09.

** more on insurance later

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Capital Budget liaison to Selectboard – John moved that Don LaRocca be the capital budget committee liaison with the Selectboard. Dave seconded. All were in favor.

Capital Budget (CB)/Town budget – Don provided a new version of a CB that reflects changes to follow the 2010 town budget draft. Even though the CB being presented now is a preliminary version, it will be presented to the voters at public meetings for input, and it will be used in conjunction with the 2010 town budget as a projected planning tool. The preliminary CB can certainly be revised over the course of the public hearing process and the plan is that Moretown's CB be approved by the State of Vermont once finalized.

Discussion followed about what items would be part of the CB.

Ancient Roads lookup – Discussion followed about: what the options are if the town decides to stop the lookup at this point; would any additional lookup information be helpful; and what it would cost the town (\$5,000-\$10,000) for Paul to do the work if he were to proceed with the lookup.

Rae will ask Paul what the cost would be to provide a summary outlining what has been found on the lookup so far so it can be on file.

*** more discussion on insurance -**

- Would we be paying extra (around \$11,000 annually) for additional insurance we would never use with VLCT's policy. The proposal's were reviewed again.

John moved to switch our current insurance packet from VLCT to Denis, Ricker & Brown, Insurance of Waterbury for an annual price of \$27,427.00, as presented tonight. Dave seconded.

Discussion about asking Tammy Lawrey/Denis, Ricker & Brown of Waterbury, to quote Faithful Performance bond coverage if it is not included in the packet presented. Cheryl will contact Tammy.

Vote: All were in favor.

Dave moved to purchase Faithful Performance bond insurance from Denis, Ricker & Brown Insurance, if it is not included in the packet purchased tonight, if the annual cost is less than \$1,000. Rae seconded. All were in favor.

Cheryl will contact Denis, Ricker & Brown Insurance and VLCT and let them know the Board's decision to award the bid to Denis, Ricker & Brown.

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Next Selectboard meeting - the 1/4/10 regular Selectboard meeting will be at the town hall.

Articles for Town Meeting – There was much discussion about how much of the landfill revenue would be used toward lowering the tax rate and how much would be put into the capital savings reserve.

John moved to prepare a Town Meeting article that would put 60% of the landfill revenue toward lowering the 2010 tax rate, and 40 % would be put into the Capital Savings Reserve. Rae seconded.

Discussion – The State school tax rate is going up in 2010, should more than 60% of the landfill revenue be used to lower the town tax rate to offset the increase in the school tax rate?

The percentages in the article could certainly be changed before town meeting if after hearing public input, the Board feels a change is warranted.

Vote: Rae, John and Stephanie are in favor

Rob opposed

Dave abstained

Motion passed.

Budget related –

Town hall note - Paperwork for a \$78,000 loan for the repairs and renovations of the town hall was signed.

Stephanie moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Dave seconded. All were in favor.