

**Town of Moretown
Office of the SELECTBOARD**

Draft – Unapproved minutes of the 1/11/10 Selectboard special meeting

Board members present were: Rae Washburn, Stephanie Venema, Rob Roberts, John Hoogenboom

Guests present were: Kara and Ruby Herlihy, Cherilyn Lamson, Denise Sanders, Don LaRocca, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the Board

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

Cherilyn Lamson – asked to speak with the Selectboard about comments that were made at their last meeting about the Town Clerk in response to a letter from the Treasurer requesting mediation between the Selectboard and the Treasurer. The comment made by a Selectboard member about poor relations between the Treasurer and the Town Clerk was published in the Valley Reporter and she (Town Clerk) received adverse comments as a result. Cherilyn said she had no idea of the Treasurer’s request for mediation or of the Board member’s comment, until she received the comments about the article. Cherilyn requested time to talk about this matter with the Board in executive session.

Rae moved to enter into executive session at 6:10 to address labor relations where premature public knowledge would clearly place the municipality or person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Stephanie seconded. All were in favor.

Rae moved to come out of executive session at 6:25. John seconded.

All were in favor.

Budget and Town Meeting article work commenced –

Capital budget – a revised Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) provided by Don LaRocca was reviewed and revised. Don will provide an introduction and a preliminary CIP for the Town Report.

How the budget impacts the tax rate – The Board clarified that regarding Dave’s report earlier this week regarding the tax rate, the Selectboard actually has no idea what the tax rate will be at this point. Several components make up the tax rate not just the budget, some of which are not available until around July (ie: the Grand List).

Sidewalk tractor – Meriden thinks the current tractor and equipment we bought in 2007 to snowblow the village sidewalks, will not last past this year because the equipment is not commercial grade. Meriden suggested purchasing commercial grade equipment might be more economical.

The Board will look at other options for clearing the sidewalks and ask people for ideas before making any decision. Rae will ask Craig what was done to clear the village sidewalks before we had a tractor and snowblower.

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Law enforcement budget – The proposed 2010 law enforcement budget is \$3,000. There was a lengthy discussion about what Washington County Sheriff’s Department does for Moretown; what training a Constable involves; about increased liability by having a trained Constable; finding a person who would be committed long-term and interested in being trained; and appointing, rather than electing a Constable or increasing the Constable term. There was also discussion about increasing the amount budgeted for law enforcement, and about asking the voters if they want to add to the law enforcement budget via a floor vote article at town meeting.

Rae moved to have an article for \$4,500 by floor vote at Town Meeting for law enforcement, and add \$2,500 to the already proposed \$3,000 for law enforcement in the 2010 budget, making a total proposed law enforcement budget of \$5,500. Stephanie seconded. All were in favor.

Finances – Rob said we need financial reports, but he thinks we may have a budget surplus. If so, we may need an article to ask the voters what they want to do with the surplus.

Discussion followed about 2009 expenses for road projects and about pending grant reimbursements. So there may not be a surplus because the reimbursement will not come until 2010. Stephanie will give an update on pending grant reimbursement, road reports, sand usage etc., at the 1/18/10 meeting. Cheryl will contact Tom Anderson of AOT about the status of pending State grants.

Selectboard reports – were assigned as follows and should be ready for the 1/18/10 Selectboard meeting:

- Stephanie - Road report
- Rae - Maintenance of legal trails
- Dave - Town hall repairs and renovations

Town report – Discussion about having a full text of the town budget in the town report as usual, or just having an abbreviated version. Cheryl will ask the town auditors what the printing

cost is per page for the town report. If the cost is minimal, more than likely the town report will include a full text budget as it has in the past.

Town Meeting start time – Rae moved to start Town Meeting at 9 a.m. John seconded. All were in favor.

Health Savings Account (HSA) deposit – Discussion about since the new health insurance has a higher deductible, whether or not the town will continue to contribute 100% of the deductible by a deposit in employee’s HSA, and if so how to budget.

Rae moved to increase HSA deposits for a single health plan from \$1,500 to \$2,000, and from \$2,250 to \$3,000 for a two-person health plan, and any increase caused by the additional contribution to the HSA’s or health insurance budget, will be offset by adjusting other lines items in the appropriate budgets. Stephanie seconded.

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Discussion – That a notice of the change in benefits caused by the additional contribution to the HSA will be noted in a letter to all employees. The letter will also include notice that the town may or may not fund HSA's again next year, and that effective April 2010, all employees will be paid on a bi-weekly basis. Every attempt will be made to ease any hardship to employees caused by the transition from weekly to bi-weekly pay.

Vote: All were in favor.

New highway truck article - the town has a price from Clark's Truck Service for a new dump truck. Rae will contact Craig about getting pricing from other companies as well, before the truck article is finalized.

C. O. Davis Fund – Stephanie moved to enter into executive session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss a possible recipient of the Charles O. Davis Fund, whereby premature public knowledge would clearly place the person involved at a substantial disadvantage. John seconded. All were in favor.

Rae moved to come of executive session at 8:25 p.m. John seconded. All were in favor.

John moved to expend \$500 from the Charles O. Davis Fund for eligible candidates Rae seconded.

Discussion - Stephanie will work with Amy Deutl on necessary warrant documentation for the expenditure.

All were in favor.

Bonding of town officials – Amounts for bonding the Town Clerk, Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector had to be chosen.

John moved to bond the Town Clerk for \$100,000, the Town Treasurer for \$300,000, and the Delinquent Tax Collector for \$100,000, through the town's insurance agent Tammy Lawrey of Denis, Ricker & Brown Insurance. Rae seconded.

Denis, Ricker & Brown Insurance will cover the costs for bonding the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer, and the town will pay the costs for bonding the Delinquent Tax Collector.

Vote: All were in favor.

Rae moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Rob seconded. All were in favor.