

**Town of Moretown
Office of the SELECTBOARD**

DRAFT – Unapproved minutes of the April 5, 2010 Selectboard meeting

Board members present: John Hoogenboom, Dave VanDeusen, Rob Roberts, Reed Korrow

Guests: Mike Poulin, Hoover Austin, Kara Herlihy, Jonathan Siegel, Bob and Bev McMullin, Deborah Feldman, Doug Reed, Carl Wimble, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the selectboard

John called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and gave an overview of tonight's agenda.

Public comment:

Mike Poulin – came in with a written complaint about the odor and noise from the Grow Compost of Vermont, a fairly new business located on Route 2 in Moretown. Mike said the landfill doesn't bother him, but this is an odor that is impacting his quality of life when he is outdoors. Noise from the business is also a factor on the weekends when he wants to spend time outdoors with his family, because of the beeping noise from equipment. Zoning Administrator Deborah Feldman will be forwarded a written complaint from Mike and Holly, so she can investigate the issue.

Hoover Austin –

Hicks yews - asked if the uncovered scrubs have been fertilized. John thinks they were.

Access road – run-off drains onto Howard Ferris's land and so a swale should be installed. Town trucks continue to use the access road when they are fueling the trucks. Hoover suggested an alternate route the trucks should use which does not involve the road or driving between the newly planted trees.

Town hall repairs – the deck will be finished this week and Doug Reed should be contacting the selectboard to report that the work is pretty much done. Hoover had to do a little jack hammering to put the deck on, but more is needed to bust out the elevator area that needs to be cleaned out and repaired. Hoover provided a quote of \$2,975 in February to repair drywall and cement, seal and paint the elevator enclosure, clean out the pit floor and drain, and install metal for proper spacing. Kevin Collins needs to get into the elevator and repair the electrical box.

Dave said he needs to talk with Doug Reed about what work still needs to be done (the punch list) so Hoover can get paid, and see where we stand on project costs to date, before committing to further expenses.

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Ron Shems – re: quarry litigation – It was a solid victory for the Town. The judge apologized for the time it took to make a decision, but he wanted to prepare a very factual written decision. Rivers has 10 days to file a “Motion for Reconsideration” of the decision and 30 days to appeal the decision. Rivers filed a Motion to Enlarge the time for filing Reconsideration, but Ron doubts the judge will grant an extension as it is rarely approved. April 28th is the deadline for filing an appeal. If an appeal is filed to the Supreme Court, most of the cost would fall on the appellant. The costs to the town would depend on what River’s actually appealed.

Approval of minutes:

3/8/10 – Rob moved to approve the minutes of 3/8/10 as written. Dave seconded. John, Dave and Rob were in favor. Reed abstained from voting.

3/15/10 – John moved to approve the minutes of 3/15/10 as written. Dave seconded. All were in favor.

3/22/10 – John moved to approve the minutes of 3/22/10 as written. Rob seconded. All were in favor.

Reports & Communication –

Cherilyn Lamson – Memo from Cherilyn that the box on the front door of the Town Clerk’s Office was used again, this time for a dog license. She still has not received a key to the box. Cherilyn is requesting permission for the box to be removed by a lock smith.

Discussion – It is unclear if Amy Deutl owns the box or the town owns the box.

Dave moved to allow a lock smith to take the box apart and if damaged in the process, the town will reimburse any damages if the box is not owned by the town. John seconded.

Discussion followed that the town needs a box that can be used by the town clerk, the town treasurer and the administrative assistant, and that each should have a key to the box. Even though the box is labeled for tax payments it is being used for other purposes and by the town clerk not having a key it is causing problems.

Dave withdrew his motion. John withdrew his second.

John moved to have a box place on the door that can be used by the town clerk, town treasurer and administrative assistant, and if there is only one key for the current box, it will be removed and a new box put up. Dave seconded. All were in favor.

Rob will tell Amy we need a key to the box on the front door, and if we don’t get a key soon the box will be removed.

TH #67 Gallagher Acres – It appears Bob Provost is under contract with the Gallaghers to purchase a 43 lot subdivision on Gallagher Acres. Mr. Provost will be coming into the 4/19/10 meeting to talk with the selectboard about confirming that the Town has accepted sections of the development road into the municipal system, where that section of road is, and the town stand for taking over maintenance of the remaining development road. There is a file available for board members to review prior to the 4/19 meeting.

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Mike and Holly Poulin letter of complaint Grow Compost of Vermont –

Letter of complaint about the new compost business on Route 2. Mike expressed the concerns in the letter earlier tonight in public comment. The letter will be passed along to the zoning administrator.

David and Christine Belanger letter of complaint Grow Compost of Vermont

– Letter of complaint about the new compost business on Route 2. The Belanger’s letter express concerns about odors as a result of the operations of Grow Compost of Vermont. They say the odors emanating from their operation at times make it unbearable to stand in their yard without being overwhelmed. The letter will be passed along to the zoning administrator.

Stephen Slatter re: road maintenance permit – Steve’s letter brought to the

attention of the selectboard that a permit for Velco to work in the town’s right of way on Henning Road was issued to install a temporary entrance with a culvert access the Velco property storage area during the recent utility upgrade from Stowe to Duxbury. Steve provided a copy of a letter from Velco, where they state to him that they do not intend to remove the curb cut. Velco representative John Stamatov will be asked to attend a selectboard meeting to talk about this matter.

VTrans speed limit reduction – Vtrans voted to extend the existing 40 mph zone

on Route 100 southerly, and to extend the existing 40 mph zone on 100B southerly, such that all approaches on the 100/100B intersection are within the 40 mph zone.

Trident Insurance – Notice of a workers’ compensation claim from Chris Gray,

for an injury that occurred when he slipped when getting out of his truck.

Elevator registration – Permit from the Division of Fire Safety for registration of

the elevator at the town hall.

Washington County Sheriff’s Department contract – The selectboard signed a

contract with WCSD for law enforcement services for 8 hours per week (the same as last year) with a total not to exceed \$4,500, the amount approved by the voters in a town meeting article. \$5,500 still remains in the budget for law enforcement if needed for additional hours or for constable work.

John moved to enter into a contract with Washington County Sheriff’s

Department for law enforcement for 8 hours per week until further notice from the selectboard, or until \$4,500 is reached which ever comes first. Dave seconded.

Discussion about it making sense to go from Town Meeting to Town Meeting with the contract so there is no lapse in law enforcement coverage.

Vote: All were in favor.

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More Public comment:

Bev McMullin – Bev was unable to make the public comment period earlier. She came in to volunteer to organize funding to replace the flags and repair or replace any old flag poles in the village, all at no cost to the town. Bev said she intends to purchase U.S. made flags, which cost a little more but she thinks it is worth it. She would like to ask Nancy Conrad about dedicating the new flags to Craig’s memory. The Board thought that was a nice idea, but perhaps we should include David Kingsbury in the dedication. The dedication may also include the U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. The flags will be up by Memorial Day.

Highway Department business:

New truck – Dave said he spoke with the road crew about their thoughts for a new truck. They think the big truck is priority.

Reed mentioned a “low boy” truck that could hold a sander but could be taken off in the summer so the truck can be used for other purposes. He will get more information. Reed asked if we have a need for another tandem truck?

Discussion followed: about the cost difference and trade-in value between a 7 yard truck and a 14 yard truck, being a factor during the decision making process; how long to keep trucks before trading/replacing them; do we need the chloride truck to be a tandem truck as will be the case some day if we have all tandem trucks; hire a road foreman before making any purchases so that person can recommend what he feels the road department needs.

Road Foreman applications – There were eight applications received. All applications were reviewed by the board. Jeff Baker, Chris Gray, David Cinelli and Andrew Abair will be offered an interview on April 12th.

Moretown Mountain Road culvert – Reed has been looking at a second culvert on the Mountain Road near the Getzinger residence, that Sheila Getzinger feels should be replaced as well because it didn’t handle the flow. Reed said the hydraulic analysis done by the state of Vermont, states the culvert as is suits the needs for a 25 year flood, which should be sufficient if extra culverts were put in at the time of the 2008 flooding. Reed does feel guardrails are necessary at the new box culvert site.

Reed moved to install guardrails at the site where the new box culvert was installed last year on the Moretown Mountain Road. John seconded.

Discussion followed about whether or not to install wood or metal guardrails. The town could investigate the cost for each and talk about installing wooden guardrails if the Getzinger’s are concerned about aesthetics, and would agree to pay the difference in price. Wooden guardrails would eventually need to be replaced though because they would rot and break over time. The cost for used metal guardrails would be around \$12.00 per foot.

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Moretown Common Road guardrails – John said there is an area near the Common Road and Route 100B intersection, that he feels needs guardrails. Davy Tree Service cut all of the trees in area near the site, without notifying Moretown’s Tree Warden. The area will be looked at.

John will call Davy and notify them that in the future, the Tree Warden needs to be contacted before trees are cut.

John Riley – DRB business:

DRB member appointments – John R. presented a letter signed by Erick Titrud, Jim O’Neill, Tom Badowski, and Linda Vantine, requesting re-appointment to the DRB as a regular member. Paula Mastroberardino requested re-appointment as an alternate.

Dave said he has a case pending with the DRB so he is excusing himself from voting on the appointments.

John H. moved to appoint Linda Vantine, Erick Titrud, Tom Badowski and Jim O’Neill to the DRB for 3-year terms effective 4/1/10. Rob seconded. John, Rob and Reed were in favor. Dave abstained from voting.

John R. said there are some landscaping/screening items from the town garage project that may need to be followed up on. Also there is a floor drain system going inside the town garage that was not included in the application.

The permit was approved in 2008. The water vacuum system did not work. It was questioned at what point a change inside a building continues to involve the DRB once a project has been completed. The permit conditions will be reviewed by the board.

John H. moved to appoint Paula Mastroberardino as an alternate to the DRB for a one-year term effective 4/5/10. Rob seconded. John, Rob and Reed were in favor. Dave abstained from voting.

2010 Pay Scale & Benefits Schedule – A draft was reviewed. The only changes from last year are:

Health Insurance town’s contribution for the Health Savings Account was increased to reflect the change in the deductible.

Road crew pay was increased to reflect a Livable Wage increase for Rodney and Meriden, and Chris’s pay was increase by .16 cents to reflect the same raise Meriden got.

John moved to approve the Holiday & Vacation and Personal/Sick/Bereavement as printed on page 1 of the Schedule. Reed seconded. All were in favor.

John moved to approve the Insurance Benefits 2010 as printed on page 2 of the Schedule. Rob seconded. All were in favor.

Selectboard meeting schedule – If a holiday falls on the 1st or 3rd Monday of the month, which is the schedule for regular selectboard meetings, the selectboard will meet on the following 1st or 3rd Tuesday.

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Dave moved that all Pay Scale remain the same in 2010 as it was in 2009 except for: Chris Gray will be paid \$13.82 per hour; Rodney Huntoon will be paid \$13.55 per hour; and Meriden Nelson will be paid \$13.55 per hour. All John seconded. All were in favor.

A full copy of the Pay Scale & Benefits Schedule as approved tonight will be attached to the minutes of record.

OLD BUSINESS:

Veteran Exemption – Rob had State Statute information about the exemption. Statutes state the \$40,000 exemption is for widows and widowers only. The current exemption can be changed by a vote at an annual or special town meeting warned for the purpose of changing the amount of the exemption.

Town Hall report from Doug Reed – There are four repair items for Hoover to do to complete his contract. Doug said Hoover plans to get the items done this week then he should be paid the remainder of his contract. Dave will attend the walk thru of the punch list. Badger still has \$5,900 due on his contract to paint the town hall. When Hoover has finished his work, Badger will do his painting work as long as the weather remains warm.

Dave moved to pay Hoover Austin \$5,493.00, the balance of the original contract, plus one storm panel for the town hall, two storm panels for the town clerk's office, and for removing the electric heat from the treasurer's office. John seconded.

Discussion – Dave will let Cheryl know when the punch list has been satisfied and it is ok to place Hoover's invoice on a warrant.

Vote: All were in favor.

Health Savings Account allocations – The selectboard asked that the monies to be deposited into the employee's health savings accounts be on tonight's warrant. They were not. The request was made on March 16th, via a memo to Amy Deutl.

Discussion followed that orders/warrants, are a selectboard document which orders the treasurer to pay an item for a certain amount. Orders/warrants are not the treasurer's document, an issue which will be discussed more at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS:

Energy Audit - Karen Horn of the Moretown Energy Group is filling out a grant with Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, for money to pay for a complete energy audit and weatherization of town buildings. The grant application is due April 30th.

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Broadband – Dave spoke briefly about a grant where the state of Vermont and Comcast provide high speed internet service. Dara Torre is gathering information.

Overload permits were signed.

Warrant #'s 27 and 28 were approved as printed.

Update of Officials and Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways – was approved as submitted.

Dave moved to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. Rob seconded. All were in favor.

The next regular meeting will be held on April 19, 2010.