

**Town of Moretown
Office of the SELECTBOARD**

DRAFT – Unapproved minutes of the May 3, 2010 Selectboard meeting

Board members present were: John Hoogenboom, Stephanie Venema, Dave Van Deusen, Reed Korrow

Guests present were: Rodney Huntoon, Chris Gray, Hoover Austin, Kara Herlihy, Raymond Munn, Mike Demingware, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

John called the meeting to order at 5:30

Stephanie moved to go into executive session at 5:30 p.m., to discuss highway work issues and for evaluation of employees, where general public knowledge would place the employee at a disadvantage. Dave seconded. All were in favor.

John moved to come out of executive session at 6:15 p.m. Dave seconded. All were in favor.

No action was taken as a result of the executive session and the regular meeting began.

Public comment:

Raymond Munn –

Bridge Road – town road #24 is class III for 0.17 mile then turns to class IV for about one mile. Ray questioned where the class IV road actually lays.

As currently defined, the class IV road is located just before where the old barn sets, but there is no survey on file to verify that. Discussion followed about several other roads and trails where the actual location has been questioned.

DRB hearing – Ray thinks there was a DRB hearing held on a Tuesday a couple of weeks ago, without public notice.

Cheryl indicated that when asked about whether or not notice was required, John Riley said public notice was not necessary in this case.

Hoover Austin –

Road postings – Hoover asked why the roads are still posted since they seem to be all dried up. The question will go to Rae.

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Approval of minutes –

4/19/10 – Stephanie moved to approve the minutes of 4/19/10 as written. Reed seconded. All were in favor.

Reports & Communication, Announcements:

Tax Sales – Email from Craig Eilers, asking if the town will bid on any tax sale property if need be, if no other bids on the tax sales are favorable.

Stephanie moved that the town will bid on tax sale properties if no other bids are favorable. Dave seconded.

Discussion followed about the delinquent tax collection and tax sale policy, which are printed annually in the town report.

Memo from Rae Washburn air compressor, grading, state auction and trails:

Air compressor – The old compressor unit has failed and a new one is needed. It will cost around \$1,300 plus a small amount for electrical work to wire the unit up.

The selectboard approved the expenditure which will come out of the highway's tool budget.

Grading – has not been done because of the rainy weather, or the forecast for rain. Plans are to start grading roads tomorrow, weather permitting of course.

State auction 5/10/10 – The auction may give the town an opportunity to purchase a good used truck for the road department for a decent price. Rae would like authorization to spend up to \$8,000 on a truck.

Reed moved, based on John's conversation with Rae too, that we expend up to \$8,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to purchase a used truck for the highway department, with the stipulation that the Capital Reserve Fund be repaid. Stephanie seconded. Discussion followed that the CRF will be repaid with landfill money by proposing an article at town meeting, asking the voters to repay the Capital Reserve Fund via landfill tipping fees and therefore not impacting the tax rate.

Vote: Stephanie, John and Reed were in favor. Dave abstained from voting. Motion passed. Cheryl will contact the state of Vermont to make payment arrangements in case a truck is purchased.

Maintenance on town trails – Rae thinks there will be a lot of discussion when talking about doing work on town trails and that there should be a special meeting. The board will have a special town meeting on 5/24 from 6-8 at the town hall.

Town Constables:

2nd Constable Mike Demingware came in tonight to offer his thoughts about what duties and training he intends to do. Discussion included: Ray thinks Maxine is proposing a bill in the House that would extend the deadline for constables to get training / certification, or they would lose some of their authority currently defined by Statute;

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the State will pay for the academy training; field training will now be available for academy trained constables, by a local law enforcement officer trained for that purpose; Mike will pick up a copy of Moretown's ordinances and a copy of our roads and trails and travel them to become familiar with them; signage that would restrict vehicles from using trails if they are unregistered and uninsured; trail identification and maintenance so that people stay on town trails rather than private property; close some of the town trails that are being misused; contacting Eric Howes to see about getting a radio so Mike can follow Capital West calls in case his assistance is needed. Mike is unclear at this time how much training he will pursue.

More reports & communication:

Kelley Brook trail – Charlie Abare asked that his request for stone/gravel be brought to the entire board. He said the town has maintained Kelley Brook for over 20 years, and that he and Daryl then Craig had an agreement that if he allowed the town to improve the road which involved his land, the town would maintain those improvements. Charlie said the road needs stone to maintain the road and that he would spread it out if the town dumps it.

Stephanie said Kelley Brook is a trail. Charlie's request came when he saw the town dump stone on Hog Hollow. Hog Hollow is a class IV road. She recommends that we wait to hear from Rae Washburn on the issue before agreeing to dump product on Kelley Brook. The board agreed.

Old Business:

Locked box on the front door of the town office – Amy and Cherilyn were both made aware that the topic was on tonight's meeting agenda and that they were welcome to attend for the discussion.

At the 4/5 selectboard meeting, John made a motion that the board was to get a key from Amy Deutl for the locked box, or it will be taken down. John withdrew his motion of 4/5/10. Dave withdrew his second.

John moved to keep the locked box on the front door of the town office and get two more keys made by a locksmith so the Town Clerk and Administrative Assistant could also make use the box. Dave seconded. All were in favor.

4/19 memo from the town clerk – items on the memo included: the lock box which was addressed earlier; a request for an increase in assistant hours to redact social security numbers on Vermont Property Transfers from 1989 to the present was denied; and accounting for IRS payments for recording fees must be worked out between the Treasurer and the Town Clerk.

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VLCT workshop to identify duties – Because Moretown is not a member of PACIF (insurance through VLCT) the cost for a two hour workshop is \$800. After discussion, it was decided that Paul Gillies will be used for a workshop instead of VLCT. Reed will call Paul for available dates.

Personnel Policy - was signed as amended, which will make probationary periods for new employees hired one year, and to change the Health Savings Account annual deposit from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Town hall repairs and renovations – As of tonight’s warrants, Hoover Austin has been paid in full for his original contract. Another \$3,000 or so will be spent to bring the elevator up to State code and to clean and repair the elevator shaft and walls, so the elevator can be used. Repairs are needed to the leaky piping under the kitchen sink. Franz Kluckner did the work originally. Cheryl will call Franz and ask if he would come and take a look.

Highway business –

River Road phase III – Bids were received from engineers for preparing a plan of how to raise a section of River Road that will be paid for with a FEMA grant. The bids were as follows:

American Consulting Engineering & Surveying, Inc. (ACES) -	\$5,600.00
Newton Technical Services -	\$7,915.40

After comparing the services specified on the proposals, Stephanie moved to accept the proposal from Newton Technical Services for \$7,915.40. John seconded. Discussion included that Stephanie wants to talk with Doug Newton about some of the “other items” that were included in his proposal that were not included in the ACES proposal, such as the specific amount of hours (160) Doug figured would be needed for technical and administrative supervision.

Vote: All were in favor.

Foreman search – There was much discussion about what to do – to hire one of the two applicants being considered; to re-announce/advertise, etc. There will be a special meeting held on 5/10 to talk more about this when there is a full board.

Bridge # 40 repair – A \$175,000 Structures grant has been applied for to pay for 90% of some of the repairs needed to the bridge. The fire department will be asked if they can clean the town’s bridges with the fire equipment to help prevent deterioration of our bridges.

Sand pile area use – The road crew notified the selectboard that vehicles are entering the sand pile area with cars and spinning up dirt on the road crew’s vehicles and parking near the fuel depot and they have trouble fueling up their trucks. Discussion followed about placing a gate on the open access to prevent vehicles from accessing area, and about drafting a policy for uses for the sand pile area.

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Veterans exemption – Dave said Steve Magill wondered if voting to change the amount of the Veterans exemption could be done by Australian ballot. Cheryl will ask the Secretary of State.

“E” Initiative grant – Dave reported that Dara Torre is working on a grant that would bring lines for high speed internet to Moretown via Waitsfield Telecom, at no cost for the line installation.

Wind Towers - Dave reported that Moretown may not have high enough peaks for wind towers. He would like the town to purchase an electronic topo map. Dave will contact Dan Currier from Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission about getting the map.

Town owned land – Dave wonders if volunteers could look up old deeds to see if Moretown owns more land than is on the Grand List.

John reminded the board that the town went through this years ago, and ended up selling a piece of land they thought they owned and didn't, so if this is done he thinks it should be by a lawyer etc.

Safe Routes to School – grant is due the 14th, for speed limit signage in the village. They need the support of the town. Stephanie presented a letter that was signed by John that will be forward to Dara Torre. Around 20 people showed for the public meeting last week, held to talk about the feasibility study. When finished, the study will give options for building sidewalks in the village.

Trail behind the school – the trail committee will be reminded that they need to go door to door to village residents, letting them know of any building plans and to make people aware that have water supplies in the area of construction.

Selectboard work plan – was updated and will be reviewed at the 5/17 meeting.

New Business:

Road cut – A road cut for Pat Diego's Jacob Road property will be passed along to Rae Washburn for his consideration as Road Commissioner.

Various locations for guardrail placement – There are five places in town where the board is considering placing guardrails. Two are critical – the bridge near Haults Road that were damaged by an accident that will be replaced; the second area is at the site where the new box culvert was installed near the Getzinger residence. A representative from LaFayette Inc. will look at the sites and give quotes for doing the work.

Overload permits were signed for Viens and Sherman.
Warrant was approved as presented.

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Reed moved to enter into executive session at 9:08 to discuss the qualifications of the candidates who applied for the Road Foreman position, whereby general public knowledge would clearly place the persons involved at a substantial disadvantage. Stephanie seconded. All were in favor.

Dave moved to come out of executive session at 9:30. Stephanie seconded. All were in favor.

There will be a special meeting on Monday, May 10, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. to continue discussion on the Road Foreman position.

John moved to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.