

**Town of Moretown
Office of the SELECTBOARD**

Draft – Notice of unapproved minutes of the May 17, 2010 selectboard minutes

Members present: Stephanie Venema, Rob Roberts, John Hoogenboom, Reed Korrow

Guests present: John Malter, Rae Washburn, Stephen Syz, Kara Herlihy, Amy Deutl, Cheryl Brown as assistant to the board

5:45 – The meeting began at the sand pile site to define its current usage.

6:00 - The meeting reconvened at the town office.

John moved to order a sign that says “no overnight parking – violators will be towed at their expense”. Stephanie seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes:

5/3/10 – Stephanie moved to approve the minutes of 5/3/10 as written. Reed seconded. All were in favor.

5/10/10 – Stephanie moved to approve the minutes of 5/10/10 as written. Reed seconded. All were in favor.

Highway department business:

Lead man job description is:

- Coordinates work activities as scheduled by the Road Commissioner
- Advises Road Commissioner immediately of any accidents; equipment problems; or other problems
- Advises Road Commissioner of any complaints or suggestions from residents regarding road conditions
- Works with road crew making sure equipment and town garage are kept clean, safe and well maintained.
- Responsible for contacting road crew to plow as needed during winter storms
- All expenditures over \$200 must be approved by the Road Commissioner.

Road Commissioner’s report:

- Road Conditions:
All roads have been graded at least once this year. The road crew will continue to grade as required, and as weather permits throughout the summer.

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- Road Sand:

The Town used 3,541 cubic yards of road sand from November 2009 – March 2010. Rae estimates around 3,600 cubic yards of sand remaining in the stock pile. He has instructed the road crew to haul an additional 1,400 cubic yards of sand (about 100 loads and about half what was hauled last year) to add to the stock pile. Average use over the last three years is 4,889 cubic yards of road sand per year.

- Road work:

River Road – The Town anticipates doing the final phase to raise a section of the River Road, in July-August this year. The project cost is around \$125,000, 25% of which will come out of the highway budget (\$31,250 before in-kind services are deducted), the remaining 75% will be paid by a FEMA grant. VELCO donated 3,000 cubic yards of good fill they are removing from their property on Henning Road. Combined with the rock Moretown Landfill is donating, there is more than enough products to do the River Road project, which will save the town a lot of money.

Guardrails – There will be six sites in town where guardrails will either be replaced or installed, totaling around \$14,000. The cost for these guardrails will come from the highway budget.

Stephanie moved to install guardrails at the six locations listed on Rae’s report, for a total cost to the town of \$13,949. John seconded. All were in favor.

Culvert replacement – The road crew anticipates expending about \$9,200 from the highway budget to replace culverts on various highways.

Road resurfacing – With the remainder of the \$68,142 budget, the road crew intends to do as much road surfacing as possible with the budget they have left.

- Town garage – The floor drain holding tank has been installed. The old air compressor needs to be replaced. Even though the cost would be a little more, Rae suggested purchasing the compressor from Reynolds and Sons because it is commercial grade and it would have a warranty. The board approved voiding the check for \$1,299 to Tractor Supply that was cut previously and purchase a compressor from Reynolds and Sons that would be paid for out of the highway department tool budget.

Fuel depot – Rae proposed purchasing a cement oil spillage tank for a cost of \$1,100 that would be installed around the fuel tank. Rae thinks the compressor and oil spillage tank can be purchase from the highway budget because he intends to purchase less road sand this year.

Reed moved to have the pre-cast cement oil spillage tank installed around the diesel fuel tank as soon as the tank is empty, for a cost not to exceed \$1,100. John seconded.

Discussion followed about waiting until next year to have this work done.

Vote: John, Reed and Rob were in favor. Stephanie abstained from voting.

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- Other items:

Sidewalk plow / mower equipment - Rae thinks the town should warn an article for the August primary vote, for a new plow/mower commercial unit. The John Deere tractor we have now would be traded in, so the article would be a not to exceed \$25,000. John will talk with Kaj Samsom about the town/school sharing expenses.

Utility truck – Rae recommended that the town warn and purchase a new 1 ton truck dump truck with plow and sander for a price not to exceed \$50,000, or as an alternative purchase a ¾ ton pickup with plow for a price not to exceed \$22,000.

Dump truck – The town is going to need a new dump truck no later than 2011. If purchased this year, it would more likely be less expensive. This year’s price is around \$170,000.

John Malter –Alliance news – John M. said Northfield and Roxbury have requested to be members of the Alliance. Currently they are members of the Central Vermont Solid Waste. There would be administrative fees to make the change but because of their large per-capita, John M. feels the Alliance would benefit from the addition over time. The six members of the Alliance would need to approve the addition. Four of the six have already approved the addition, but John M. would like all towns on board.

John H. moved to allow Roxbury and Northfield to join the Alliance. Stephanie seconded. All were in favor.

Financial reports – Amy Deutl - financial reports provided by Amy were reviewed and discussed. Other discussion included:

School tax refund – of about \$40,000 will go toward offsetting the 2010 tax rate as a surplus.

Tax Anticipation Note – will probably have to start drawing from the note next month.

Town garage project – is finished except paying for the land. Rob and Amy will get together and the project will one of the topics at the 5/24 town meeting forum.

Stephen Syz – Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) works to purchase and conserve water related properties and ensure they remain accessible and development free. Stephen said Jonathan Larsen has offered to give VRC about five acres on Route 2, between the junkyard and the new bridge. Stephen explained the site and explained the process. VRC would be delighted if the Town of Moretown took over stewardship of the land once an environmental assessment on the property has been done. VRC would raise money for the closing costs through donations, and define the uses of the property by holding the conservation easement. Stephen will come back after the assessment has been done and the monies for closing costs have been raised, to find out if the town is interested in owning the property.

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Reports, communication, announcements –

Constable duties and training – Maxine Grad has secured that the training for the constables be extended for two years.

Vermont State Police Community Advisory Board – meeting on 5/18 at 7 p.m. at Central Vermont Hospital. Both of Moretown’s constables have been notified of this board, but neither have attended so far. Ray Munn is attending.

Friends of the Mad and Winooski Rivers – Dave forwarded an email from the Friends of the Mad River and the Friends of the Winooski River, notifying us that they acquired grant funding to monitor the water quality of both rivers. They would like to attend a selectboard meeting.

Further discussion was tabled until the 6/7/10 meeting.

Sargent photo – The board received a packet containing photo and narrative from Herring Brook Road residents: Sargent, Wetzel and Benevicius, of motorized vehicle recreation on Herring Brook/Herring Trail.

VLCT 2011 policy nomination form – No one was interested in being on any of the VLCT committees this year.

Moretown United Methodist Church – would like to see the pot holes filled in the driveway between the Church and the School. John will mention the request to schoolboard chair Kaj Samsom when he talks with him about sharing other expenses. A copy of the letter will be forwarded to the schoolboard.

US bank / old copier – after having received no response to two messages for June Brockman of Us bank, about what the actual shipping costs would be to send back the old copier, the town will write a letter that we are not renewing the contract and advise where they want the copier shipped.

Ron Shems re: River’s quarry litigation – John reported communication from Ron Shems about costs associated with responding to River’s request to the court of a “Motion to Reconsider” the judge’s decision. Ron thinks up to \$3,000 in legal to respond to the Motion.

Discussion included: the response would be from the Neighborhood Group and the Town; the \$3,000 would be the town’s share; the board needs to set a limit for the response.

John moved that we allow Ron Shems to file his response to the Motion, and that the town’s cost will not exceed \$3,000, and any future costs would require a town vote. Reed seconded.

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Discussion followed:

This is the final step in this phase of court and the last costs without a town vote. If there is an appeal to Supreme Court, there would be a town vote before spending any money. There was discussion about having a vote now, asking voters to approve an amount not to exceed for quarry litigation, because the town won't have enough time for a vote/appeal period if an appeal is filed because the town would need to respond within a short period of time.

Vote: All were in favor.

VELCO Waiver for donation of materials - VELCO donated about 3,000 cubic yards of material from a storage area they are removing from Henning Road. They asked that the selectboard sign a waiver that once the town has the donated material, they are free of any liabilities for any permits needed to dump the fill on location.

OLD BUSINESS:

Identification of duties with Paul Gillies – Reed reported that it appears Paul Gillies is available to meet on 6/7/10 at 10:00 a.m., to respond to Amy Deutl's request for facilitation between the selectboard and the treasurer. It will be considerably less expensive to hire Paul to facilitate than it would be to hire VLCT, and Paul is very knowledgeable in municipal law.

Amy was asked if she would be available that day/time. She indicated Monday was a busy day for the treasurer's office, and didn't commit to being present.

John stated invoices and warrants are selectboard documents per Statute, not the treasurers, and therefore the selectboard assistant should have access to the NEMRC system to make orders for payment of bills. Reed will confirm the date with Paul. Rob will invite NEMRC personnel.

Town hall/elevator repairs update – Dave is lead on this project and he could not make tonight's meeting, so this discussion was tabled until the 6/7 meeting.

Old copier – Phone messages have been left for June Brockman of USbank, to supply the town with shipping costs to return the old copier to a location they specify. Since there has been no response, a letter will be written and forwarded by certified mail, that Moretown is not renewing the contract and please advise where they want the copier sent.

New Business:

Request for extension for filing the grand list – request from the Lister's for a 30-day extension of time for filing the 2010 grand list.

Discussion followed that if this extension is approved, most likely the tax rate could not be set until after August 24th, which is the deadline for lodging the grand list. The request was approved.

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Town Meeting Forum – will be scheduled for Monday, May 24th from 6-8 p.m. at the town hall, to discuss maintenance on legal trails, highway department needs for a truck and the town garage project.

Warrants and overloads were approved as submitted.

Stephanie moved to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. Rob seconded. All were in favor.