

Town of Moretown

Office of the SELECT BOARD

DRAFT – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 1/9/12 special meeting held for the purpose of meeting with insurance personnel; to discuss Lister work proposals/Lister budget; salaries/bonuses; and finalize selectboard reports.

Board members present were: John Hoogenboom, Stephanie Venema, Reed Korrow, Clark Amadon, Tom Martin

Guests included: Terri McAdams and Kelly Kindestin from VLCT (insurance), Rob Roberts, Jeff Ladue, Sean O'Brien, Will Houghton, and Cheryl Brown as assistant for the board

Insurance for flood damages -

The board explained to Terri and Kelly about the town's dilemma with what to do about a town office, and because the studies and decision making process will take time, they plan to ask VLCT for a 180 day extension to the 2/28/12 deadline to submit flood related claims. A written request for the 180 day extension was given to Terri tonight.

Terri and Kelly spoke about their members being able to preserve their right for guaranteed replacement costs, so VLCT expected that some towns may be requesting extensions. Kelly said after they were unable to get enough information from the first adjuster to answer specific questions raised by the selectboard, VLCT asked a second adjuster to do a review of the flood damaged town buildings. There should be a preliminary report ready by the next meeting. Sean O'Brien spoke of a couple of repairs that still need to be made (siren & exhaust system), other than that the fire station is done. Sean will get the information to the new adjuster so he can include those items in his report.

The board questioned the process for getting insurance money for the flood damaged town buildings, if they decide not to make any repairs to the town office.

Kelly explained, once the adjusters report is final, the board will need to get an estimate from a contractor to repair each building to its pre-flood condition and VLCT will pay the town on that estimate, no matter what the town decides to do with the building. Kelly was pretty sure the towns insurance would not pay to raise the town office so it would be out of the flood stage.

Lister work proposal/Lister budget –

Jeff Ladue presented a proposal to do Lister work. As did Ed Clodfelter, from the company that is currently doing the town-wide appraisal, APAS, LLC.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 1/9/12 selectboard meeting

Based on facts and information gathered, the selectboard chose the services of APAS and sent Jeff a letter notifying him of their choice, offering him time tonight to come in with any comments he might have.

Jeff said he doesn't think that the choice of the selectboard was based on money but on personal, and is here to defend the Lister's actions.

Tom thinks the Lister's have come to recognize that more time needs to be spent doing maintenance work because some of the problems property owners have aren't being taken care of in a timely manner, and property improvements aren't being caught up in the grand list in a timely fashion. Tom added that Ed Clodfelter's proposal to assist the Lister's was much less than Jeff's proposal.

Jeff said he did recognize that more time is needed, and their secretary has been unable to help out as much as she would have like to, but the Lister's are always catching up with zoning applications and considers most have very little impact on tax revenue anyway. Jeff asked how much time Ed Clodfelter will spend at the town office, and that it is the duty of the Lister's to sign the grand list, which may be difficult for them to do if they didn't do the work.

Stephanie asked if they had problems signing the grand list in past years when professional reappraisals had been done. Jeff didn't know, but if the Lister's don't sign the grand list, the town doesn't have one.

Jeff asked what his duties will be going forward. Ed Clodfelter (APAS) was hired to assist the Lister's. The Lister's will continue to do statutory work, with the budget the selectboard set.

Stephanie said the board's decision was not personal, it was a business decision based on facts gathered. She said she had asked Jeff for information over a year ago, and hasn't gotten it, and it bothers her that the selectboard is in charge of the Lister budget but she can't get information about what they do and how much time they spend doing it.

Jeff agreed to provide the selectboard with what he feels is enough time to get their work done. He left a letter of resignation from the Lister's secretary Charlene Lathrop.

Town Meeting articles –

Fire department radios – Sean asked for a moment of the board's time, and asked why the radio article will not be put on the warning for vote.

Tom explained that the selectboard think a grant to help pay for the radios should be pursued, with the idea that if the grant is turned down, there could be an article at an election later this year.

Draft – unapproved minutes of the 1/9/12 selectboard meeting

Sean said we could be waiting for radios because everyone is buying them because of the new FCC frequency regulations. It will cost Moretown for other towns to cover our fire protection, because we don't have radios and can't communicate.

Sean said his original request was \$11,000, but there is a petition in the works requesting \$13,500, explaining the extra to be a cushion to allow for upgrading radios for mobile units.

Will said without the new radio's, come January 1st we will have no system for dispatch or communication.

Stephanie offered to help with the grant application.

The town's articles, other than the budget, at Town Meeting will be:

\$5,000 for law enforcement

\$10,000 to set aside in the bridge & culvert fund

Other budget items –

Highway budget – was reviewed and the board had questions for Stuart. Reed will ask him to come to the 1/16 meeting.

Salaries/bonuses –

There was discussion about the great job the Moretown volunteer firemen did in 2011, and that the board would like to offer the firemen a small token of appreciation. There will be \$1,300 budgeted, to give each of the 26 firemen a stipend. The board would also like to offer their appreciation to other town employees for their hard work by giving a \$250 bonus to the full time employees of the road crew, and a \$500 bonus to the selectboard administrative assistant.

There are no plans to give salary increases in 2012.

Selectboard reports –

Board members are working to finalize reports for the town report.

Tom moved; seconded by Stephanie to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. All were in favor.